

ANNUAL REPORT 2015 - 2016

Champaran Satyagraha : 100 years



Champaran - 1917

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Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti

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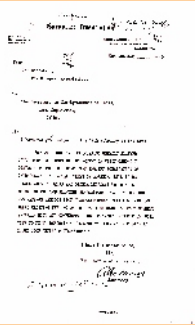
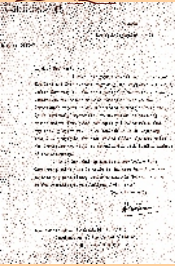

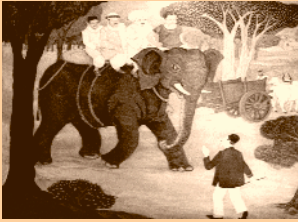




CHAMPARAN SATYAGRAHA

नील का दाग

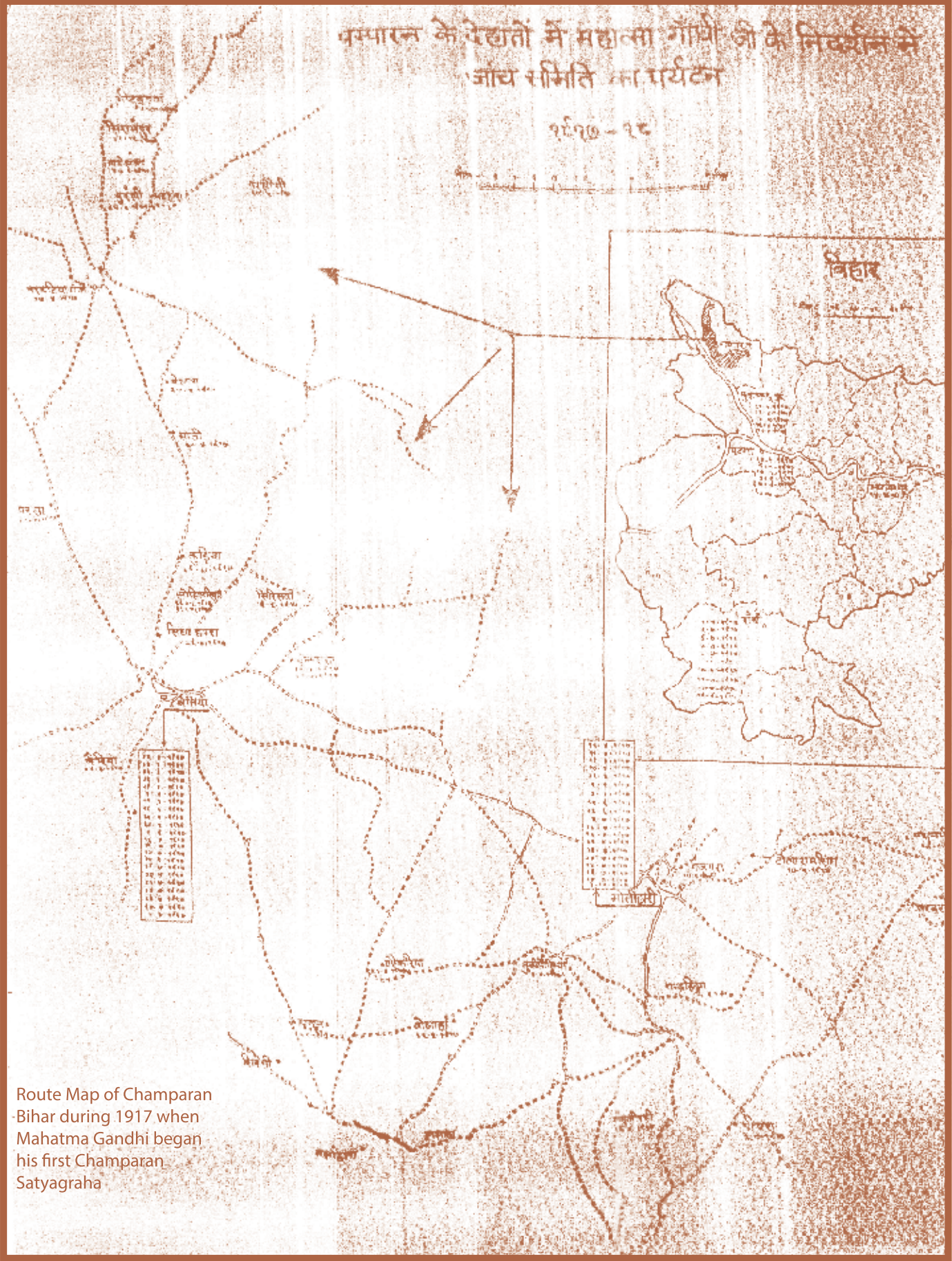
मुझे यह स्वीकार करना चाहिए कि वहां जाने से पहले मैं चम्पारण का नाम तक नहीं जानता था। नील की गोदियां मैंने देखी थीं, पर वे चम्पारण में बनती हैं और उनके कारण हजारों किसानों को कष्ट भोगना पड़ता है, इसकी मुझे कोई जानकारी नहीं थी। जब मैं लखनऊ कांग्रेस में गया, तो वहां राजकुमार शुक्ल नामक चम्पारण के एक किसान थे। वहां इस किसान ने मेरा पीछा पकड़ा। 'वकील बाबू आपको सब हाल बताएंगे'-वाक्य वे कहते जाते थे और मुझे चम्पारण आने का निमंत्रण देते जाते थे।

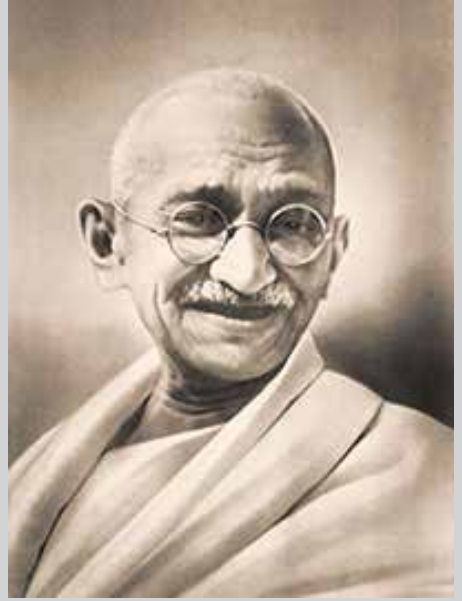


"What I did was a very ordinary thing. I declared that the British could not order me about in my own Country."



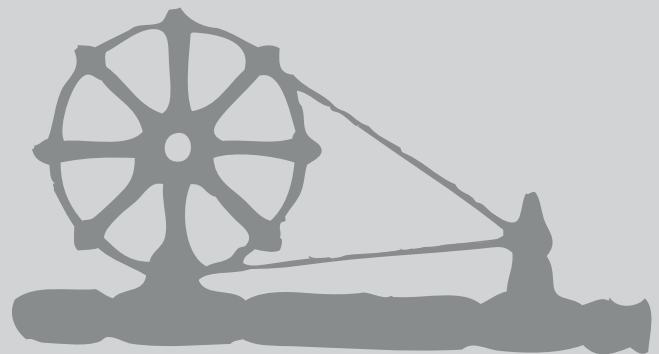
In Champaran, where the great sages in older times used to do penance, through washing away the stain of Indigo, Gandhi realized the mission of his life and forged a weapon by which India could be made free.





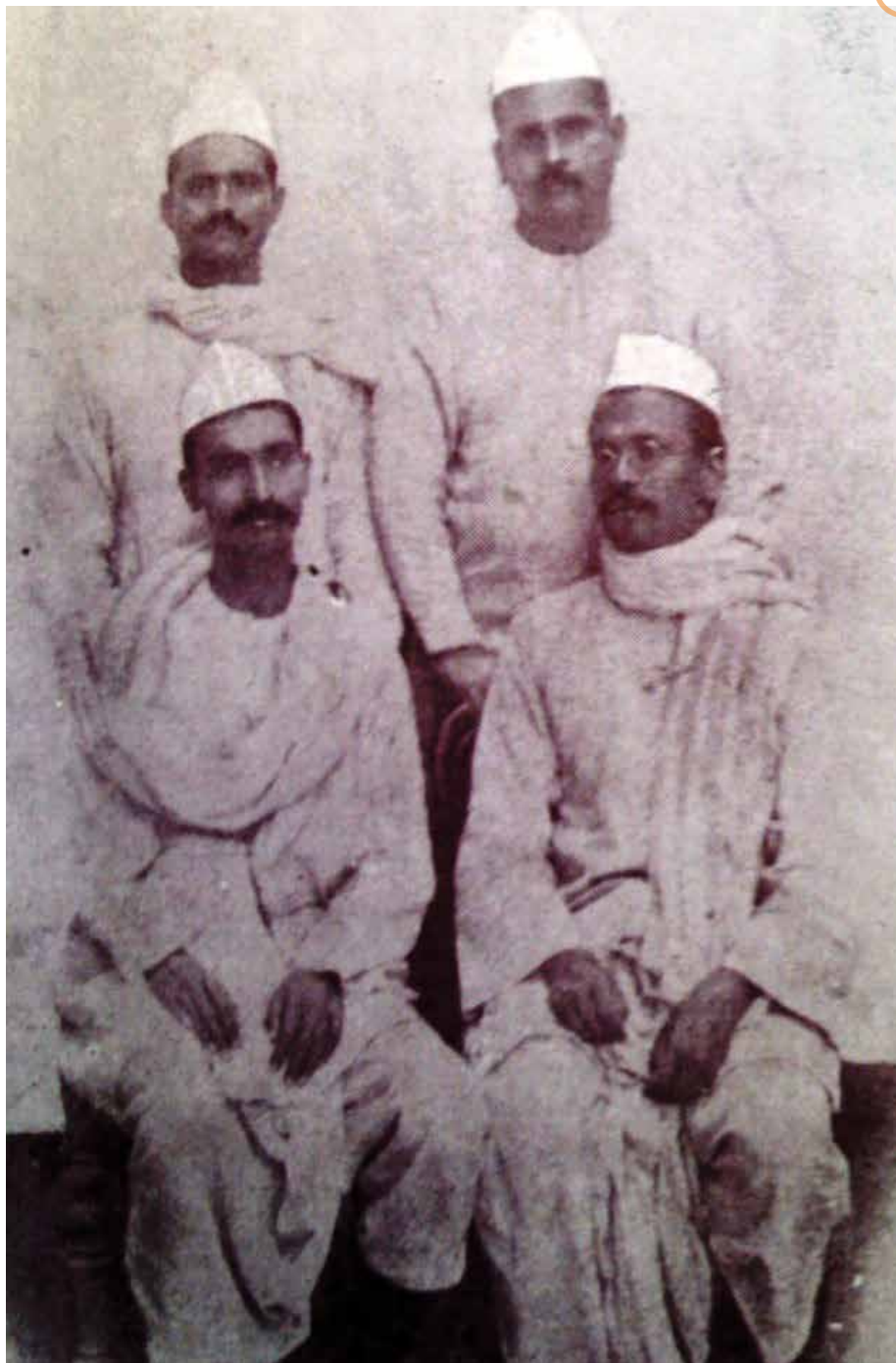
ANNUAL REPORT

2015-16





Shri Rajkumar Shukla, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Dr. Anugrah Narayan Sinha, along with other key players during the Champaran Satyagraha in 1917.



The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.

M. K. Gandhi



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Foreword

Champaran and Mahatma Gandhi

Friends,

Nation is gearing up for the centenary celebrations in 2017 of the first mass movement launched by Gandhiji in India.

There have been peasant movements before and after the Champaran movement of 1917, but what makes Gandhi's Champaran Satyagraha – significant is the fact that it was the first time that bridges had been built between the peasants and the other sections, especially the middle class intelligentsia. In addition, while the final resolution addressed the peasants' grievances only partially, the idea that the mighty Britishers could be forced to bend -caught the imagination of the thousands of Indians fighting for freedom. From now on, people began to defy as well as challenge the injustices.

A question is often asked:

"Whether Champaran Satyagraha launched Gandhiji in Indian politics or Gandhiji launched Champaran Satyagraha." Whatever the answer is, it remains a fact that Gandhiji made his debut in Indian politics with the Champaran Satyagraha. In the words of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, "Through Champaran Satyagraha, Gandhiji taught the simple and illiterate mass of Champaran -the lesson of truth and non-violence, not by speeches but by his action".

One could argue that though the Champaran Satyagraha led by Gandhiji did not produce a constitutional change, it demonstrated that ordinary Indians had the power to drive events. Satyagraha succeeded in weakening the forcefully imposed/established structures. Champaran movement did not begin as an act of defiance; it was an effort to remove the distress of poor peasants. In the early 19th century, European planters had set up indigo farms and factories at Champaran, in North Bihar. Thereafter, they forced the local cultivators to enter into the tinkathia system, which stipulated 3/20th of their holdings

*In the words of
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(usually the most fertile part of the land) be reserved for indigo cultivation. Moreover, the peasants were compelled to sell their crop at a extremely predetermined low price. When the demand for indigo in the global market began to fall with the arrival of German synthetic dyes, the European planters of Champaran passed the burden of losses on to the cultivators. Rents were raised and other illegal dues were extracted from them before the peasants could stop cultivating indigo.

A Champaran peasant Raj Kumar Shukla, managed to persuade Gandhiji to visit the area to fight for the rights of the exploited cultivators. Gandhi and his colleagues toured the villages, asking questions and recording statements, accounting the atrocities and terrible episodes of suffering, including the general state of degenerate living. Meanwhile, a Champaran Agrarian Committee had been formed by the Government, with Gandhiji as one of its members. Unable to ignore the statements of around 8000 peasants, the Government accepted Gandhiji's suggestion of abolishing the Tinkathia system. Furthermore, the planters were asked to refund 25% of the amount they had illegally collected from the peasants as enhancement of dues.

Champaran provided a great challenge and opportunity for Gandhiji. Gandhiji adopted a holistic approach during Champaran movement. Soon realizing that ignorance and illiteracy among the farmers had made it easy for the Britishers to exploit and repress them, Gandhiji decided to bridge the gap between education and work. He thought that it was not enough to fight against the officials and the government. The equally important task was to do something to improve the cultural and social backwardness in the Champaran villages. Building on the confidence of the villagers, he began leading the cleanup of villages, building of schools and hospitals and encouraging the village leadership to undo purdah, untouchability and suppression of

women. He appealed to his co-workers from all over the country. Several responded to his clarion call. Many young enthusiastic workers joined him in his crusade like Dr. Rajendra Prasad, J.B. Kriplani, Dr. Anugrahanarain Singh, Braj Kishore Babu, Ram Navami Prasad etc. Champaran Satyagraha went on to become the launchpad for the wider struggle for the country. Gandhiji's youngest son Devdas also joined them. Buniyadi schools were opened in six villages in Champaran where training in spinning, carpentry, farming etc. became part of the syllabus. Kasturbai taught the ashram rules on cleanliness and sanitation. Health conditions in the villages were miserable. Gandhiji got a doctor to volunteer his services for six months.

Champaran is dotted with Gandhiji's footprints in the form of institutions, buildings, memorials, etc. which needs to be conserved and preserved as they are important milestone while delineating the history of Gandhian era. From Bhitiharwa ashram, situated in the northwest corner of Bihar to Pipra Kothi at the southern edge of Champaran, the area is peppered with the places, buildings, memorials etc. which bear the Mahatma Gandhi's imprints, though most of these places are in sorry state today. Besides, the revolutionary concept of Nai Talim- amalgamating 3'R's with the compulsory physical labour has long been forgotten. Buniyadi Schools have lost mass interest in face of the challenge of globalization. However, the irony of situation is that only Gandhian scheme of things could save the Third World from the onslaught of globalization

Let us join hands and come together to save the legacy of Gandhiji's Champaran in its the centenary year.

**Dipanker Shri Gyan
Director**



Introduction

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti: A Profile

Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti (GSDS) was formed in September 1984 by the merger of Gandhi Darshan at Rajghat and Gandhi Smriti, at 5, Tees January Marg as an autonomous body, and is functioning under the constructive advice and financial support from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. The Prime Minister of India is its Chairperson and it has a nominated body of senior Gandhians and representatives of various government departments to guide it in its activities. The basic aim and objective of the Samiti is to propagate the life, mission and thought of Mahatma Gandhi through various socio-educational and cultural programmes.

The Samiti has two campuses:

(a) Gandhi Smriti

Gandhi Smriti, housed in the Old Birla House on 5, Tees January Marg, New Delhi, is the sacred place where Mahatma Gandhi's epic



Gandhi Smriti - at a glance.

life ended on 30 January 1948. Mahatma Gandhi had lived in this house from September 9, 1947 to January 30, 1948. Thus, the hallowed house treasures many memories of the last 144 days of his life. The Old Birla House was acquired by the Government of India in 1971 and was converted into a National Memorial of the Father of the Nation and was opened to the public on August 15, 1973.

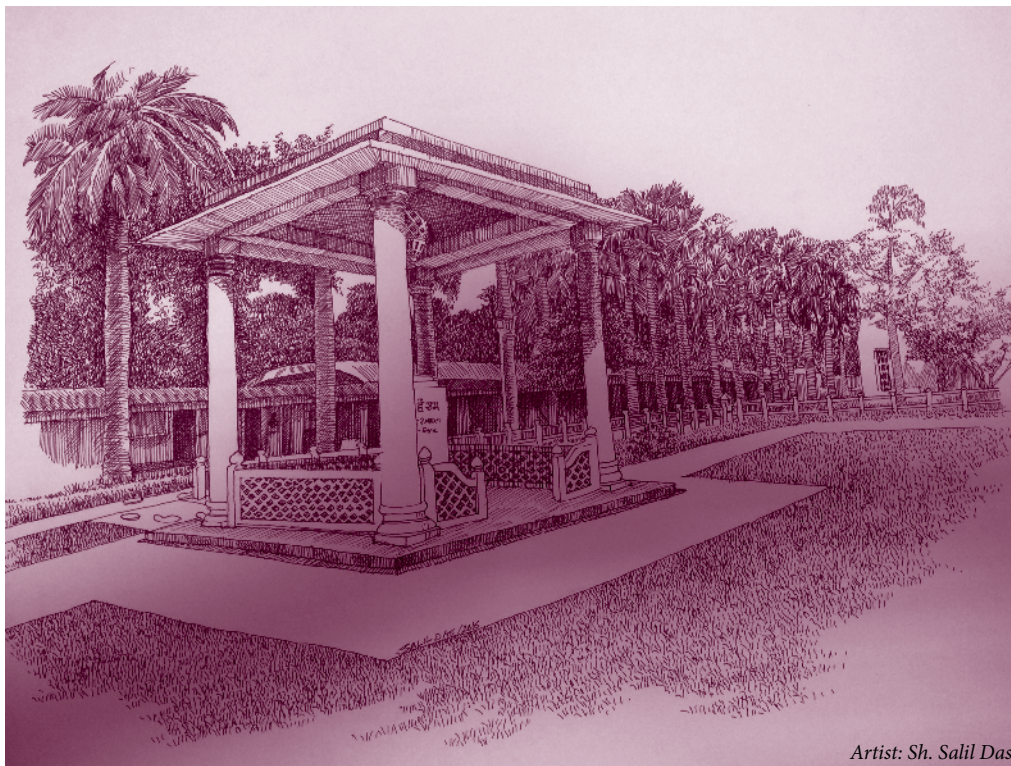
The preserves include the room where Gandhiji lived and the Prayer Ground where mass congregation used to be held. This was the place where Gandhiji was felled by the assassin's bullets. The building and the landscape have been preserved as they were in those days.

The Memorial consists of:

- (a) *Visual Aspects* to perpetuate the memory of Mahatma Gandhi and the noble ideals they represented,
- (b) *Educative Aspects* to focus concentrated attention on certain values of life that made Gandhi a Mahatma and
- (c) *Service Aspects* to introduce activities in order to sub-serve certain felt needs.

On display in the Museum are photographs, sculptures, paintings, frescos, inscriptions on rocks and relics pertaining to the years Gandhiji spent here. The meagre personal effects of Gandhiji too are carefully preserved.

The entrance gate itself is of great historical significance as it was from the top of this Gate Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru announced to the World about the passing away of Mahatma Gandhi, "... the light has gone out our lives and there is darkness everywhere..."



The Martyrs Column - the site of the Martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi.

A larger than life statue of Mahatma Gandhi, with a boy and a girl holding a dove in their hands, standing on either side, emerging out of the globe, symbolising his universal concern for the poor and the deprived, welcomes the visitor at the main entrance of the Gandhi Smriti. It is the work of the renowned sculptor Sri Ram Sutar. The legend at the base of the sculpture says, "My Life is My Message".

A Martyr's Column stands at the spot where the Father of the Nation was assassinated, commemorating the Martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi as the embodiment of all the sufferings and sacrifices that characterised the long struggle for India's Freedom. A broad stone pavement is laid round the Column for devotees to take a reverential *parikrama* (walk around). The wide space in front of the Column is made for devotees to offer homage. Close to the Martyr's Column on the lower lawns are the words of Gurudev Tagore, "He stopped at the threshold of every hut..."

In the Centre of the Prayer Ground, is a Pavilion with frescos on the walls, depicting the continuity of India's cultural voyage, her interaction across the globe and the emergence of Mahatma Gandhi as a 'Universal Man', embodying in his person all that is sublime in human life as he said:

'For my material needs my village is my world but for my spiritual needs the whole world is my village'.

Outside the Pavilion there is a bench, made of red sand stone on which Mahatma Gandhi used to sit during the prayer or in conversation with the vast mass of humanity who would assemble on the lawns of the Old Birla House seeking his counsel and solace in those troubled days.

The green lawns are the main feature of the Prayer Ground with peripheral decorations with flowers laid round the lawn. Near the entrance of the memorial on its right lawn is inscribed "India of Gandhi's dream". At the roundabout close to the prayer ground are the words of Albert Einstein, "Generations to come will scarce believe..." In the centre of the roundabout is a creation of the renowned artist Sankho Chowdhury in bronze, symbolising the 'Eternal Flame' lit by Gandhi with his martyrdom.

Gandhiji's Room at Gandhi Smriti has been kept exactly as it was on the day of his assassination. All his possessions are on display: his glasses, walking stick, a knife, fork and spoon, the rough stone he used instead of soap. His bed was a mattress on the floor, plain white, with a low, wooden desk by its side. There is also an old and well-used copy of the *Gita*.

The entire building is now divided into different sections. On either side of the main entrance of the building a Prayer composed by the Mahatma 'A Servants Prayer' and his eternal message, His 'Talisman' are on display.

The evolution of *Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi to Mahatma Gandhi* is depicted in the south wing through the panels of black and white photographs accompanied by a simple narrative. The south wing also houses an auditorium and a committee room.

Besides, the exhibition has been so aligned that the south wing gives a simple narration of the journey and evolution of a boy called Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi and how through his 'experiments with truth', he leads India and humanity to its emancipation.

The northern wing has five different sections. The first section, the gallery leading towards the room where Gandhiji spent the last 144 days of his life is devoted to his Peace Pilgrimage and Martyrdom. Next to this is the second section, another room with special focus on the last 48 hours of his life, which culminates with his martyrdom. This section has also an auditorium with facilities to screen films on Mahatma Gandhi.

The third section of the north wing projects the 'India of Gandhi's Dreams' and the formulae he has left behind for posterity to realise this dream: the Eighteen Point Constructive Programme. Gandhi wanted to present India as a model of development before the world with scientific precision. The epic journey ends – Father of the Nation is gone. But his legacy lives on. Above all, an unfulfilled dream remains as a challenge before us to build the 'India' of his 'dreams'.

The fourth section *Sumana* has twenty-eight enclosures/panels in all. The section, which is today, houses the Minifigures. These powerful *dioramas* depict important events in the life of Mahatma Gandhi from his boyhood to his martyrdom. Crafted by Smt. Sushila Rajni Patel, this section of the Museum is an enriching experience.

In the fifth section *Sanmati*, the Gandhi Smriti literature centre, there is a vast collection of *Gandhiana* and other related and relevant books available under one roof.

A special section is devoted to explain how the world reveres Mahatma Gandhi. The first part is through the eyes of the artists reflecting the magnificent life of the Mahatma. The second part is Gandhi on himself.



Mahatma Gandhi's room in Gandhi Smriti.

In the centre, people are led to assimilate, absorb and feel the presence of the Mahatma through a 40 second multi-media animation, depicting the last journey of the Father of the Nation towards his Martyrdom. This is depicted through the rendition by one of the renowned vocalists Kumar Gandharva.

The *pergola* – which provides an interface with the visiting mass of humanity –is now a walking art gallery, which provides an opportunity to artists from all segments of our society and all parts of the world to witness the journey of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi to Mahatma Gandhi in the sprawling exhibition *From Mohan to Mahatma* prepared by senior Gandhians like Shri Anupam Misra and developed by the National Archives of India. The exhibition was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister of Culture and VC GSDS Dr. Mahesh Sharma on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti on October 2, 2015 in Gandhi Smriti.

by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India after being received from the World Peace Gong Committee of Indonesia was inaugurated at a special function commemorating the 100 years of Satyagraha on September 11, 2006. This is a gentle reminder to the world of the enormous struggles by peace marchers across the world to live in harmony with one another.

From here the visitors are guided into the room where Bapuji spent the last 144 days of his life. As they come out of this room they are acquainted with history of these 144 days through the Photo Exhibition accompanied by narratives culled out from the accounts of the eye witnesses.

Swaraj at Gandhi Smriti showcases Gandhian emphasis on khadi, cottage industries and rural development.

The *Kirti Mandap* pandal christened by the eminent *Sarod* Player Ustad Amjad Ali Khan,



Hon'ble Vice Chairperson of GSDS and Hon'ble Minister of Culture, Dr. Mahesh Sharma, inaugurating the exhibition - "From Mohan to Mahatma" in Gandhi Smriti by offering floral tributes to Gandhiji.

While on their journey, the visitors also witness the magnificent World Peace Gong that stands facing the roof top where the mortal remains of the Father of the Nation was kept on January 31, 1948 for thousands of people to pay their last tributes. The Peace Gong, gifted to Gandhi Smriti

near the Martyr's Column at Gandhi Smriti has the capacity to accommodate 500 participants for major programmes.

In an endeavour to provide the underprivileged section of the society skills in

computer, stitching and embroidery, early childhood care and education, community health, spinning and weaving, mime and music, *Srijan* – the *Gandhi Smriti Educational Centre* – is also functioning here. *Srijan* aims to help them learn these vocational courses in order to instill in them appreciation for self-help, confidence and bread-labour.



Children viewing the multimedia exhibition in Gandhi Smriti.

The museum added in April 2005 a multimedia exhibition entitled *Eternal Gandhi*, which is housed on the entire first floor of the building. It has used state-of-the-art electronic hardware and new media to bring Gandhiji's life and vision alive. The approach has been both historical and interpretative. This exhibition using 21st century technology highlights the core of Gandhian thought – the commitment of a Satyagrahi to the principles of truth. Two sculptures of Ba and Bapu made in rganized, which are the creations of a couple, Mr. Decha Saisomboon and Mrs. Wipa Saisomboon from Thailand, are also kept at the multi-media museum.

It is these components that together make Gandhi Smriti a *Composite Museum*.

(b) Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat

The second campus is situated adjacent to the Mahatma Gandhi Samadhi at Rajghat.

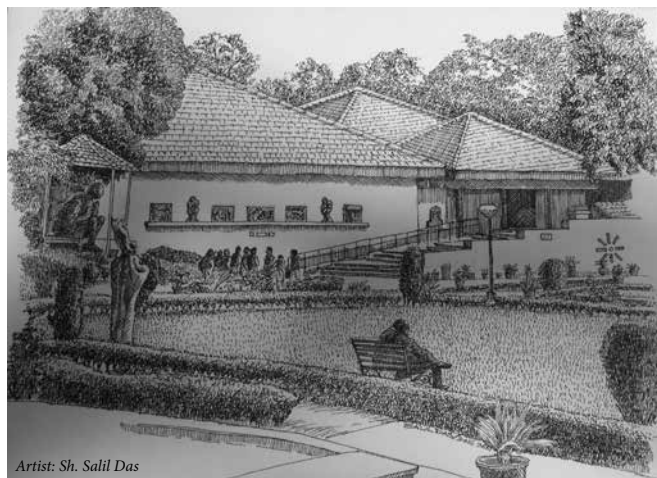
It was twenty-one years after the Mahatma's martyrdom that the whole world decided to observe his centenary in 1969 in a way worthy of the Pilgrim of Peace. It was then the sprawling thirty-six acre campus came into existence to mark the centenary of Mahatma Gandhi. Thirteen Indian states and seven foreign countries had joined hands in creating

the magic, called the *Gandhi Darshan International Exhibition*. The main objective of the exhibition was the interpretation of Gandhi's message and gospel of truth and non-violence against the background of the modern world and the way it has permeated and affected the nation's life and influenced the other countries of the modern world.

Today two exhibitions exist in Gandhi Darshan- *My Life is My Message* and *Freedom Struggle* in clay models.

In the first pavilion entitled ***My Life is My Message***, hundreds of archival photographs have been arranged on the walls, along with brief textual narratives. Some of these images of Gandhiji as a child and young man are rarely seen. There is also a model of the house in which he was born, as well as the actual army vehicle in which his body was transported for cremation to the grounds, now known as Rajghat.

In addition, visitors can see Gandhiji's school report cards, newspaper clippings and cartoons that show contemporary reports and reviews of his activities, the letters exchanged between Gandhiji and Leo Tolstoy, portraits of his wife and parents and other fascinating material. One display showcases the many commemorative stamps issued by countries around the world in the years that followed Gandhiji's assassination; and another displays the letters that were sent to him. These, especially, reveal, how widespread was the fame that a simple Gujarati lawyer acquired in his lifetime. For example, one is addressed to 'Gandhiji: Wherever He May Be'; another (posted in New York) simply has a sketch of Gandhiji on the envelope.



A view of the Gandhi Darshan exhibition hall "My Life is My Message."

To summarize, this pavilion with 274 panels has the following:

- 1) In Panel no.1-273 there are photographs on life of Gandhiji from birth till assassination, there are 1600 photographs approximately.
- 2) In Panel no. 274 there are 75 stamps from different countries, released on the centenary year of Mahatma Gandhi.
- 3) There is the boat and bench used during Salt Satyagraha and Gun Carriage which carried the mortal remains of Mahatma Gandhi from Birla House to Rajghat.
- 4) There are models of:
 Gandhiji's house at Porbandar in Gujarat
 Sabarmati Ashram
 Yervada Jail

The pavilion on **Freedom Struggle** comprises of beautiful clay models on different aspects of the freedom movement.

In 1994, during the 125th Birth Anniversary of Gandhiji, while addressing the nation Prime Minister Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao formally announced the setting up of *International Centre of Gandhian Studies* at Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat. On January 30, 2000, President K. R. Narayanan unveiled a Column declaring the entire Campus as the International Centre of Gandhian Studies and Peace Research in the presence of Prime Minister and Chairman of the GSDS, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and several other dignitaries.

Infrastructural Facilities:

Facilities available at Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat

- A Library and Documentation centre with over 15000 books by and on Gandhi, and related subjects.
- Comprehensive walk-in exhibition entitled 'My Life Is My Message'
- Conference, seminar and lecture halls with all facilities
- International Hostel for scholars-in-residence
- Permanent photographs and books related to Mahatma Gandhi.
- Dormitories with facilities to accommodate 100 persons)
- Publications Division: Apart from books, it publishes a Journal and a News Magazine
- Photo unit
- Camping facility for major national and international meets
- Open space for contact programmes



Exhibition in clay models depicting the Dandi March in display in Gandhi Darshan.



In the pix-(from top to bottom): Library at Gandhi Darshan, Photo Unit, Srijan Music students and House-keeping staff.

The objectives of the Samiti are:

1. To plan and carry out activities for the promotion of Gandhian ideals and philosophy.
2. To keep Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti open for public as per standard rules related to museum and maintain it to provide maximum convenience to visitors.
3. Promote Audience Development and Museum Management Framework in both Gandhi Smriti Museum and Gandhi Darshan Exhibition.
4. Promote initiatives to create awareness on the life and message of Mahatma Gandhi through educational media like exhibition, films, Gandhiana, posters, and different forms of Art, Culture and Technology.
5. To develop and preserve a library of books including rare books, literature, photographs, films and documents etc.
6. To collect, preserve and exhibit important relics of Mahatma Gandhi.
7. Promotion of volunteerism for Gandhian work and betterment of the society.
8. Focus on empowering the marginalized through different activities related to philosophy and ideals of Mahatma Gandhi.
9. Developing capacities of children, youth, women and other groups for imbibing Gandhian values and work to bring attitudinal changes/development through practical applications of Gandhian philosophy.
10. To restore, protect and manage both the complexes at Gandhi Darshan and Gandhi Smriti and all movable and immovable properties therein according to requirement.
11. To bring publication for various sections of people to enhance their knowledge about Mahatma Gandhi and the values he propagated.
12. To conduct inter-disciplinary research on Gandhian philosophy in the context of contemporary issues.
13. Encourage and promote Gandhian perspectives on education and facilitate education for peace, ecological security, equality and justice.
14. To work extensively with different Universities and Academic Institutions for better and in-depth understanding of Mahatma Gandhi and Gandhian philosophy.
15. Empowerment of the weaker sections of the society through vocational training programmes and other livelihood initiatives as part of Gandhian constructive work.
16. Respond and work to address challenging problems of the society.
17. Involving different stakeholders to work for a culture of collective living, collective working, peace and nonviolence.
18. Reaching the unreached with the life and message of Mahatma Gandhi especially in far flung areas.
19. To undertake such other activities and to do all the foregoing mandate and to cooperate and seek cooperation from other institutions for the aforesaid purposes.



Structure of the Samiti 2015-2016

GOVERNING BODY

Chairman

The Hon'ble Prime Minister

Vice-Chairperson

Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Hon'ble Minister of Culture

Members

Minister In-charge, Ministry of Culture

The Lieutenant Governor of Delhi

Mayor of Delhi

Shri Laxmi Das

Shri Sankar Kumar Sanyal

Ms. Rajni Bakshi

Shri Tridip Suhrud

Shri Narayan Bhai Bhattacharjee

Dr. Harsh Vardhan Kamrah

Ms. Neelima Vardhan

Shri Ranji Thomas

Dr. Suparna Gooptu

Secretary, Ministry of Culture

Information Advisor to the Prime Minister

Chief Engineer, CPWD

Secretary, (Expenditure), Ministry of Finance

Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development

Commissioner of Delhi, Municipal Corporation of Delhi

President/Administrator, New Delhi Municipal Committee

Member Secretary

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture

Executive Committee

Chairperson

Dr. Mahesh Sharma

Members

Shri Laxmi Das

Shri Sankar Kumar Sanyal

Ms. Rajni Bakshi

Shri Tridip Suhrud

Member Secretary

Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture,
Government of India

Director

Smt. Bandana Sharma, Director Ministry of Culture
(from March 2015-August 2015)

Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan (J.A.S.) (Since August 2015)



Timeline of Programmes

April 2015 – March 2016

Programme	Date	Venue of the Programme	Thrust Area of the Programmes
Change Festival brings in a festival of change <i>A forum of sharing ideas, experiment and initiatives</i>	April 3-5, 2015	Gandhi Darshan	It brought together all the stakeholders of a 'university ecosystem' – be it students, alumni, parents, teachers, funders, decision makers and others, as one community. 120 people from over 17 states across the country
Orientation of Youth in Peace-Building	April 8, 2015	Gandhi Darshan	Youth contribution towards peace-building initiatives beginning from their community.
Belarus Foreign Affairs Minister Vladimir Makei visits Gandhi Smriti	April 15, 2015	Gandhi Smriti	Tributes to Mahatma Gandhi
ITIHAAS learning module at the Gandhi Smriti – Mohandas to Mahatma	April 16, 2015	Gandhi Darshan	Understanding Mahatma Gandhi as part of Taking Gandhi to School Programme
Sun Valley International School visits Gandhi Darshan	April 21, 2015	Gandhi Darshan	Understanding Mahatma Gandhi as part of Taking Gandhi to School Programme
In Tihar	April 2015	CJ-4, 8 & 9	Regular programmes – medical services, charkha unit, cutting and tailoring unit, kargha unit are functioning
Buniyadi Vidyalaya, Vrinadavan celebrates 77th foundation day	April 6, 2016	Champaran, Bihar	Mahatma Gandhi had set up this 1 st Buniyadi Vidyalaya o April 6, 1939
Children and Youth as Peace-builders: An Orientation Programme on Peace Building	May 14, 2015	Gandhi Darshan	Workshop with the participants on understanding Mahatma Gandhi and his vision of constructive work
Discussion on the first war of Indian Independence and the Gandhian Era in the freedom struggle – 1857-1947	May 15, 2016	Gandhi Darshan	Understanding the historical significance of the 1 st war of India's Independence and the Gandhian era in the freedom struggle
Discussion on Save and Educate the Girl Child	May 11-13, 2015	Champaran, Bihar	Awareness programme on Education of the Girl Child as part of the Government of India's flagship initiative <i>Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Abhiyaan</i>
Swachhta Abhiyan in Kasturba Gandhi Mahila Vidyapeeth Intermediate College, Sewapuri, Varanasi	May 16, 2015	Varanasi	Awareness programme as part of the Government of India's flagship initiative <i>Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan</i>

Workshop on Fundamental Rights and their proper usage	June 8-15, 2016	Champaran, Bihar	To make the children aware of their responsibilities and duties as citizens and their fundamental right to vote and choose the right candidate as their representative in the Parliament. About 100 children took part in the programme.
Gandhi Quiz organised	June 15-20, 2015	Champaran Bihar	To popularise the life's message of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi amongst school children. 200 children took part.
Workshop on Disaster Management	June 25-30, 2015	Champaran Bihar	It aimed at providing knowledge to the children on safety methods that needs to be adhered to during any form of disaster that could strike any time. 100 children from around the area took part.
Role of Children and Youth in Peace-building: A workshop	July 25, 2015	Gandhi Darshan	To acquaint students on the values and ideals of Mahatma Gandhi and prepare them to contribute to peace initiatives, a workshop.
Meeting with school teachers/coordinators for Gandhi Jayanti Programme	August 18, 2015	Gandhi Darshan	Orientation programme of the school teachers on the life and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi and peace and non-violence.
Awareness programmes organised	August 2015	Buniyadi Vidyalaya, Champaran, Bihar	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tree Plantation Drive on Biodiversity conservation 2. Celebration of Independence Day 3. Sanitation Drive 4. <i>Understanding Gandhi</i> through reading his Autobiography
Hindi Pakhwara organized	September 1-15, 2015	Gandhi Darshan and Gandhi Smriti	Promotion and use of Hindi Language in daily life.
Rehearsals for October 2, 2015	September 2015	Gandhi Darshan and Gandhi Smriti	Musical tribute to the Father of the Nation on the Occasion of Gandhi Jayanti-cum- orientation programme by the children and orientation of children towards understanding the life's message of Gandhiji. Around 400 children took part.
Value Creation Camp organized	September 23 to October 3, 2015	Gandhi Darshan	Children of the Rashtriya Buniyadi Vidyalaya, Kumarbagh Ashram, Brindavan, Bettiah and Rashtriya Buniyadi Vidyalaya, Sirisia Adda, West Champaran, Bihar took part in various creative activities for their holistic development. Around 80 participants took part.
Programmes in Tihar Painting Competition and Gandhi Quiz organised	September 30, 2016	Tihar - CJ 4 & Ward No 13, Vocational Centre	Providing a creative vent for the inmates of Central Prisons Tihar on Gandhian philosophy.
Book Fair on Gandhiana	September 23, 2015	Rajdhani College, Delhi University	Exhibition on Gandhiana and allied subjects to promote Gandhian literature
Launch of Interpretation Centre	September 2015	Kasturba Gandhi Mahila Vidyapeeth Intermediate College, Sewapuri, Varanasi	To bring the activities of these Centers in the tourism calendar of Varanasi. Conduct regular programmes at the Interpretation Centre Developed a library and information centre and an exhibition on the life of Mahatma Gandhi
Charkha demonstration organised for children	October 1, 2015	The Foundation School, Moolchand	Ms. Renu and Mr. Manish represented the GSDS and explained the children on the nuances of charkha spinning and the how it evolved during the freedom struggle under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi.

Gandhi Jayanti celebrated	October 2, 2015	Gandhi Smriti	146 th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi celebrated by organising an inter-faith prayer meet, at the site of the Martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi. 400 children took part in the programme.
Interactions with Gandhian Fraternity	October 3, 2015	Gandhi Darshan	300 people took part in the interaction where discussion on Gandhian philosophy of <i>ahimsa</i> and mutual coexistence as an alternative to war and conflicts was shared.
Conference on “Education as a Basic Right of Humankind”	October 2-4, 2015	Gandhi Darshan	The Samiti in association with <i>Indialogue Foundation and Institute of Advanced Studies in Education, Jamia Milia Islamia</i> organized an international conference on “Education as a Basic Right of Humankind” from October 2-4, 2015 where the focus on <i>Education as a Basic Right of Humankind</i> and the sub-themes related to it were dealt extensively by academics, researcher scholars and experts.
Vigilance Awareness Week Observed	October 24-31, 2015	Gandhi Darshan	To highlight awareness about effective preventive measures undertaken through system improvements and use of information technology to fight corruption. Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan administered the pledge.
Inter-School Dandi March Competition	October 28, 2015	Gandhi Darshan	About 40 children from 20 schools from Delhi and NCR region took part in the competition. The theme was what Mahatma Gandhi had said, “There is enough for everyone’s needs but not for everyone’s greed.” Children wrote an article on the topic and developed a related poster.
Book Exhibition	October 28, 2015	Vishwa Yuvak Kendra	Exhibition on Gandhiana and allied subjects to promote Gandhian literature
<i>Ideas of National Integration on Gandhian principles flow at 46th Sarvodaya Samaj Sannam</i>	November 1-3, 2015	Harijan Sevak Sangh, Kingsway Camp	About 4000 people took part. Speakers at the conference reiterated the last wishes of Mahatma Gandhi for building an organisation of the constructive workers in India who could carry on constructive work in the villages of India, promotion of khadi and village industries, Nai Talim, prohibition, women empowerment, eradication of untouchability, etc.
<i>National Workshop on Participation of Voluntary Organisations in Rural Development</i>	November 16-17 2015	Gandhi Darshan	The programme was organised in collaboration with CAPART and Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhni (RMP), Mumbai branch which was attended by over 150 representatives from 80 voluntary organisations of 25 states. The aim was to provide a platform to NGOs working in the field of rural development to carry forward the various schemes in delivering the due benefits to the rural areas across the country.
<i>19th Mosaic Inter-school on-the-spot Painting Competition organised</i>	November 24, 2015	Gandhi Darshan	About 1500 children from 23 schools of Delhi and NCR took part. The theme of the competition was <i>Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao</i> and <i>Clean India</i> .
Celebration of Constitution Day	November 26, 2015	Gandhi Darshan	The programme was organised in association with Build India Group. The occasion also marked the launch of a unique signature campaign in Delhi to involve 30 lakh students and their parents for rejecting violence in any form against the state and send a memorandum to the Prime Minister to support this cause.

Inter-school Dandi March Rolling Trophy	November 6, 2015	Kasturba Mahila Vidyapeeth Intermediate College Sewapuri, Varanasi	1000 children from 14 institutions took part. Showcased the creativity of the participating children in different activities organised on the occasion.
2-day Orientation Programme on Youth in Peace-building and Skill Development	November 26-27, 2015	Kasturba Gandhi Institute for Development Manipur	About 100 youth from different districts including Imphal East, Imphal West, Bishnupur and Thoubal took part in the programme. Promoting genuine youth participation in Manipur, enhancing youth engagement in governance, initiating focused training programmes in peace-building and nonviolent communication, were the major highlights of the two-day orientation programme
Birla Vidya Niketan wins Vande Mataram Musical Competition on “Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao”	December 22, 2016	Gandhi Darshan	Over 170 students from 17 schools of Delhi and NCR; and one school from Alwar, Rajasthan, took part. The theme of the competition was <i>Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao</i> . Children were asked to perform on self-written and self-composed songs on the theme.
Children take part in musical rehearsal for January 30, 2016	December 2015	Gandhi Darshan and Gandhi Smriti	Musical tribute to the Father of the Nation on the Occasion of Martyrdom Day of Mahatma Gandhi-cum-orientation programme by the children and orientation of children towards understanding the life’s message of Gandhiji. Around 400 children took part. This included children from several institutions, NGOs in Delhi and NCR and also children from three different states – Kullu, Himachal Pradesh; Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh; and Nandurbar, Maharashtra.
Discussion on status of Buniyadi Vidyalayas in Bihar held	December 9-10, 2015	Champaran, Bihar	Understanding the modus operandi of the Buniyadi Vidyalayas and preparing an action plan for future work with the institution established by Gandhiji in 1939.
Preparations for the centenary celebrations of the Champaran Satyagraha	December 9-10, 2015	Champaran, Bihar	Discussions on the work/programmes that could be taken up as part of the 100 years of the Champaran Satyagraha in 2017. Keeping in mind the historical importance of the Rajkiya Buniyadi Vidyalaya, Bettiah, Champaran (being the first Buniyadi Vidyalaya started by Mahatma Gandhi in Champaran & and now has been adopted by GSDS), develop a Mahatma Gandhi Interpretation Centre.
Nashabandi Se Sachha Swarajya (True Swaraj through Prohibition) – A Convention	December 6, 2015	Patna	500 participants took part in the convention organised in association with Dr. Rajendra Memorial Trust and Akhil Bharatiya Nashabandi Parishad (All India Prohibition Council), New Delhi.
Discussion on Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Abhiyan	January 14, 2016	Gandhi Darshan	150 girls travelling throughout Haryana on a mission to raise awareness on <i>Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao</i> as part of the campaign launched by the Government of India took part.
Value Creation Camp Organised	January 23-31, 2016	Gandhi Darshan	A ten-day Value Creation Camp for almost 100 children. The children came from <i>Kasturba Mahila Vidyapeeth Intermediate College, Sewapuri, Varanasi; Himalayan Buddhist Cultural School, Kullu, Himachal Pradesh and Acharya Kakasaheb Kalelkar Lok Seva Kendra, Nandurbar, Maharashtra</i> and took part in various creative activities for their holistic development.

68th Martyrdom Day of Mahatma Gandhi	January 30, 2016	Gandhi Smriti	Tributes to Mahatma Gandhi by organising inter-faith prayer, musical tribute by children and <i>bhakti sangeet</i> in the Prayer Ground in Gandhi Smriti.
<i>Place where elderly are not respected is doomed to suffer: Rajnath Singh</i> (Campaign on Elderly Health Promotion through Young Generation)	January 17, 2016	Gandhi Darshan	Union Home Minister of India, Shri Rajnath Singh, launched the campaign on <i>Elderly Health Promotion through Young Generation - A pan India health awareness campaign to promote active aging</i> . Almost 500 people from different walks of life took part in the programme that reiterated the value-systems that entrusted us with the responsibility towards the elderly people or senior citizens.
<i>Inauguration of Exhibition on "Mohan Se Mahatma" in Gandhi Samadhi Rajghat</i>	January 30, 2016	Gandhi Samadhi, Rajghat, New Delhi	The Exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi entitled <i>Mohan Se Mahatma</i> developed by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti contains 32 panels describing important events from the life of the Father of Nation was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Culture Dr. Mahesh Sharma and Minister of State for Urban Development, Shri Babul Supriyo along with Shri Murari Bapuji. The exhibition, developed by GSDS helps in understanding of the life's message of Mahatma Gandhi.
<i>Inauguration of Exhibition on "Prohibition"</i>	January 31, 2016	All India Prohibition Council	Exhibition on different aspects of 'prohibition' and its ill effects developed by GSDS.
Dandi March Trophy for Children of Chapori	January 10, 2016	Surovi Shishu Panchayat, Guwahati Assam	An on-the-spot painting and elocution competition on <i>Peaceful Environment</i> for the Dandi March Trophy for Children of Chapori was organized with an aim towards involving the participation of children in activities that develop them into good citizen.
Workshop for Students to Volunteer for Constructive Work	January 12-13, 2016	Centre for Gandhian Studies, University of Tripura	The aim of the workshop was to develop capacities of students of the University to volunteer for constructive work, towards the larger objective of reaching social development, particularly in the rural areas. It was also to introduce the concept of volunteerism along with the volunteerism in contemporary society.
Workshop on Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao	January 15, 2016	Tripura	The programme was organised in collaboration with Tripura Central University and Bharat Vikas Parishad in the Keprampara Village of Tripura. About 200 villagers, especially women from the community participated in the workshop.
Youth Development for Constructive Work and Pre-Career Guidance Programme at Mahasamund	January 18-19, 2016	Chattisgarh	The programme was organised in association with Confederation of Community Based Organizations of India (CCBOS). Almost 300 students pursuing 10-12 classes, from nearby schools, including a few from Rajnand Gaon, Durg and also from Baster, participated. The aim of the programme was to provide an opportunity towards pre-career guidance and involve them in constructive work in the society.
<i>Promoting volunteerism amongst youth for constructive work and nation-building</i>	January 22-24, 2016	Siddagiri Gurukul Foundation, Kaneri Math, Maharashtra	The aim of the training workshop was to raise the voice of the youth on development for rural India and to understand and address these concerns from the youth perspective as opposed to the society's point of view. The participants of this conclave were volunteers from Maharashtra, Goa and Karnataka. About 120 participants (80 men and 40 women) took part in the programme.

Discussion on <i>Understanding Gandhi and Today's Youth at Kadamkuan</i>	January 30-31, 2016	Bihar Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, Patna, Bihar	200 Students from the different colleges of the city took part in the programme that aimed to raise awareness amongst the youth on the life's message of Mahatma Gandhi as a prelude to the centenary celebrations of the Champaran Satyagraha in 2017.
Two-day Youth Peace Festival organised	January 30-31, 2016	Kasturba Gandhi Institute for Development Manipur	The main aim objective of organizing the programme was to encourage the collective youth force for the service of transformation in the way of peace, love and non-violence to bring about a social change by creating a common platform for youth development and youth action and added that for making a better society we need healthy committed young people.
Four-day residential Youth Camp on "Gandhi Tomorrow" organized	January 28-31, 2016	Daspur, West Medinipur, West Bengal	About 60 college students from the region took part at the youth camp. The main focus of discussions was: <i>Global Warming, Women Empowerment and Youth and Gandhi Tomorrow</i> . The programme aimed to sensitize the youth to understand the problem of violence, its impact and the remedy in the society.
Conclave of Young Doctors in AIIMS	February 7, 2016	All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)	The programme began with <i>AIIMS 5k Run for Unity</i> to raise awareness against violence faced by doctors with the slogan "Stop Violence Against Doctors". Interactive sessions on "Think Beyond Clinics" were formed part of the programme.
Kasturba Gandhi remembered on her 72nd Nirvan Diwas	February 22, 2016	Gandhi Smriti	Over 350 people, comprising children drawn from different institutions of Delhi and NCR, women's organizations, social activists, and members from the Gandhian fraternity took part in the 72nd Nirvan Divas of Kasturba Gandhi in Gandhi Smriti. Awareness programmes on women empowerment for school children, balled on <i>Stree Shakti</i> and inter-faith prayer meet was organised.
Students of Tripura University raise awareness on "Prohibition"	February 9, 2016	Tripura	Awareness campaign on social issues, skits, street theatre performances in the interior villages of Tripura formed part of the programme.
Promoting Volunteerism among Young Girls	February 22-23, 2016	Sarania Ashram, Guwahati Assam	To develop a plan of action to promote volunteerism amongst young girls of the state on issues such as sanitation, environmental conservation, education, education of the girl child and ending domestic violence. 100 girls from ten districts of Assam representing various universities took part in the programme.
Workshop on Youth Volunteerism for Constructive Work	February 26-27, 2016	Downtown University, Guwahati	185 students from different departments of Downtown University, Guwahati participated in the workshop that aimed at motivating to take leadership initiatives in their respective areas on issues of social concern.
Workshop on "Participation of Voluntary Organisations (VOs) in Rural Development for the North Eastern Region" – Gram Chetna	February 15-16, 2016	NIRD Guwahati	79 representatives from 46 organizations from seven states of the North Eastern India participated. The workshop was organised in association with Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini towards enhancing the role of VOs in rural development.

Training of young women in volunteerism for constructive work	February 18-19, 2016	Nari O Sishu Kalyan Kendra, Howrah, West Bengal	As part of its initiative to promote volunteerism amongst young people across the country, the Samiti organised this programme, particularly for women who can play effective role in their society or community through voluntary participation.
Workshop on Youth Volunteerism for Constructive Work	February 27-29, 2016	Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi Vishwavidyalaya Wardha, Maharashtra	The effort was to orient the students on Gandhian Constructive work. Further, through the interaction of the students and villagers, it was aimed to initiate constructive work in these villages. There were discussions on <i>Gandhian Gram Swaraj</i> , <i>Gandhian Concept of Inclusive Volunteerism</i> and the need to motivate young people to work for Babu's 'India of my Dreams'. About 100 students took part.
Preparatory meeting as a prelude to the Champaran Satyagraha	February 18, 2016	Champaran, Bihar	The main focus of the meeting was the revival and establishment of true Gram Swaraj as envisaged by Mahatma Gandhi and lay a plan of action for the centenary celebrations of the Champaran Satyagraha.
Pt. Rajkumar Shukla Memorial Lecture on the occasion of Kasturba Nirvan Diwas	February 22, 2016	Bihar Hindi Sahitya Sammelan	Remembering Babu on her Nirvan Diwas and the architect of the Champaran Satyagraha, Shri Rajmukar Shukla who persuaded Mahatma Gandhi to visit Champaran to understand the case/condition of the farmers suppressed by the Britishers.
Two-day dialogue-cum-awareness on Prohibition	February 5-6, 2016	Sri Krishna Institute of Public Administration (SKIPA), Jharkhand	The different issues that were discussed on the occasion were: 1. State Policy on Prohibition 2. Gandhian Approach to Prohibition 3. Traditional Use of Liquor and its limitation among tribal people 4. Economics of Prohibition 5. Social Consciousness about Prohibition
Two-day dialogue on "Judicial System – A Gandhian Approach"	February 22-23, 2016	National University of Study and Research in Law (NUSRL)	Understanding the multidimensional personality of Mahatma Gandhi - as a lawyer, a social thinker, a communication strategist. Also focussed on the mediation and pre-bargaining techniques in the Gandhian line of thought; <i>establishing a social system based on equity, justice and good conduct with reference to Gandhi's Concept of Social Justice formed part of the discussions.</i>
Conclave of Elected Women Representatives of Panchayats for Economic and Inclusive Growth	February 22-23, 2016	State Institute of Rural Development (Grameen Vikas Bhivag) Govt. of Jharkhand	The two days conclave for EWRs focused on: 1. Enhancing information on women economic and social development indicators 2. Information of role of EWRs in addressing issue of Malnutrition, hygiene and sanitation 3. Role of EWRs in execution of SBM and NRLM programs of GOI 4. Addressing major bottlenecks and challenges as EWRs 5. Gandhian Concept of Swaraj and Panchayat Raj System
Youth Conclave on "Leadership Development – A Gandhian Perspective"	March 6, 2016	Gandhi Darshan	The programme was organised in association with Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (Delhi Zone). Almost 300 participants took part in the programme. The programme aimed at developing the leadership qualities of the youth and sensitizing them towards issues of social concern and how they could contribute towards nation-building.

<i>Global Inter-faith Peace Prayer to mark the International Women's Day</i>	March 8, 2016	Gandhi Smriti	The programme aimed towards developing a culture of courageous advocacy and unbending political will to achieving gender equality around the world.
<i>Srijan Music Choir Group performs at Inter-faith prayer meet at Gandhi Samadhi, Rajghat</i>	March 8, 2016	Gandhi Samadhi, Rajghat	Inter-faith prayer on the occasion of International Women's Day.
<i>Panel discussion on "A Gandhian Non-Violent movement for a non-violent culture of development"</i>	March 12, 2016	Gandhi Darshan	Discussion on making River Ganga the national river pollution free and ensure that there is zero discharge of pollution into Ganga.
<i>Campaign on "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" organised</i>	March 12, 2016	Gandhi Darshan	The programme was organised as a tribute to the 86 th Anniversary of the Salt Satyagraha in association with Beti & Shiksha Foundation. Almost 300 people took part in the programme. Women achievers from different fields were honoured with <i>Be The Change – Stree Udhya Award 2016</i> . The issues on which the speakers deliberated on the occasion were female foeticide, honour killing, infanticide, education for women, social and economic security, jobs, etc.
<i>Discussion on Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of Education and youth volunteerism for constructive work</i>	March 15-17, 2016	Gandhi Darshan	About 200 prospective teachers pursuing Bachelor of Education (BEd) from Maharishi Valmiki College of Education, University of Delhi took part in an interactive session in Gandhi Darshan from March 15-17, 2016. Discussions focused on Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy on education and how teachers could facilitate in providing proper guidance to their students.
<i>Conclave of Young Professionals to Volunteer for Constructive Work</i>	March 19-20, 2016	Gandhi Darshan	The programme was organised in collaboration with Pragya Sansthan. The aim of the workshop was to promote volunteerism amongst young professionals and motivate them to promote constructive work for nation building. Almost 200 participants took part.
<i>Seminar on Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao organized</i>	March 30, 2016	Constitution Club, New Delhi	The programme was organised in association with <i>Nari Manch</i> . About 175 people took part in the programme that deliberated upon the equal rights for women and highlighted the discrimination against women on religions, sex and cultural grounds and the need to address them at a national level.
<i>Symposium on "Communication for Peace and Non-violence": An Initiative as part of Youth in Peace-Building</i>	March 1-2, 2016	Department of Mass Communication, Mizoram Central University, Aizawl	Discussion on focussed on peace and non-violence and also spoke on the concepts Gandhian economy, social morality and communal amity and how communication could help bridge gaps. The programme also aimed at motivating young people to use different media forms in the North East to promote peace and non-violence in the region.
<i>National Seminar-cum-Exhibition of Women Entrepreneurs of North Eastern Region</i>	March 2-6, 2016	Guwahati, Assam	The programme was organised in collaboration with Beti & Shiksha Foundation. The aim of this seminar was to promote and propagate North-East by showcasing socially responsible ethnic products and handicrafts, tourism, cuisines, arts and culture, organic and medicinal plants.

Two-day Bal Mela-cum-Dialogue amongst youth on Gandhian Ideology	March 6-7, 2016	Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh	The Samiti in association with Grameen Vikas and Siksha Sanstha, Gazipur, Uttar Pradesh organised this programme that was attended by over 250 participants. Dandi March painting and Vandemataram musical competitions for children were organised. Also about 150 youth took part in the discussion on <i>Gandhian Concept of Scientific Development and Hind Swaraj</i> .
International Women's Day celebrated	March 9, 2016	Kasturba Mahila Vidyapeeth Intermediate College, Sewapuri, Varanasi	About 650 girls from different colleges in and around Sewapuri took part in the awareness programme and participated in the discussions related to safety of women, eve teasing, physical exploitation and denial of birth and education.
Youth Volunteers for Constructive Work Workshop organized	March 16-17, 2016	Uttar Pradesh Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, Varanasi	Issues related to the participating of youth in the process of nation building and constructive work became part of the workshop. Group discussions and group exercises was also organised.
State-level Workshop on Capacity Building of Elective Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)	March 18-19, 2016	Uttar Pradesh Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, Gandhi Bhawan, Lucknow	The workshop was organised by Association of Voluntary Agencies for Rural Development (AVARD). The main objectives of the workshop included imparting up-to-date knowledge about the status of Panchayati Raj institutions in UP and specific position of women in it. 153 representatives of PRIs/voluntary organisations took part.
Mahila Chetna Shivir raises concern on Beti Bachao Beti Padhao	March 7-8, 2016	Boondi Rajasthan	The programme was organised in association with Acharya Kakasaheb Kalelkar Lokseva Kendra. The camp discussed this significant concerns related to women. Cultural programmes, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of Rajasthan formed an integral part of the workshop.
Tana Bhagats Kala Sammelan organized	March 11-12, 2016	Jharkhand	300 Tana Bhagats of the area took part in the programme organised in association with Vikas Bharti. The programme aimed towards facilitating skill development to educated unemployed Tana Bhagat youths so that employment is created for them and strengthen this institution as they are the true last carriers of the Gandhian legacy.
Seminar on "Gandhi, Youth Volunteerism and Constructive Work" at a) Nirmala College, Ranchi b) St. Xavier's College, Ranchi	a) (March 14-15, 2016 b) March 17-18, 2016	Ranchi, Jharkhand	The seminar was an initiative to make inroad among college youth and guide as well as inspire them to devote certain time of theirs in an effort to bring changes in the lives of most disadvantaged and backward section of the society.
Workshop on "Youth Orientation for Constructive Work and Peace Building"	March 28-29, 2016	Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram, Ranchi	138 youth from the tribal villages of the region and about twenty experienced workers (resource persons) in various fields attended the workshop. Detailed discussions were held in the camp regarding the use of non-violent methods of development and for peace building in the naxal affected districts of Lohardaga, Latehar, Chatra, Gurah, Jashpur, Raigarh in Chhattisgarh and Sundargarh and Jharsuguda in Odisha.
Workshop for Young Volunteers to Volunteer for Constructive Work organized	March 15-16, 2016	Sikkim University, Gangtok	Orient the youth to take part in nation building process voluntarily and initiate voluntary action within the community to bring about a culture of participatory process.

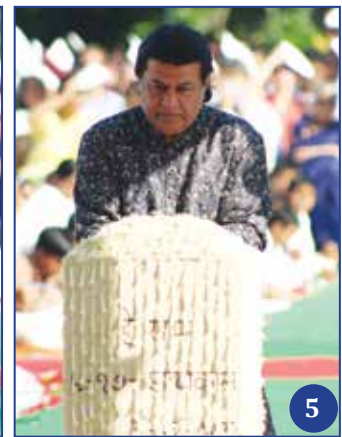
Tribal Youth Conclave	March 17-18, 2016	Kargil, Jammu and Kashmir	<p>The programme was organised in association with the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, Kargil and Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council.</p> <p>Discussions on Gandhian constructive programme and how young people could volunteer for constructive work took place.</p> <p>The conclave reiterated that volunteerism becomes an essential part of the lives of children and young people and they embrace the spirit of service right from the tender age.</p>
Workshop on “Youth Volunteerism for Constructive Work – A Gandhian Philosophy”	March 15-21, 2016	Ongole, Andhra Pradesh	<p>The programme was organised in association with in association with PACE Institute of Technology and Sciences.</p> <p>The programme highlighted the philosophical thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi, and the application of these principles for youth who are committed for social/ voluntary work and asked the youth for working in the community on Swachh Bharat, health, rural upliftment, providing free education facilities, etc.</p>
Adivasi Kala Sangam organized	March 21-23, 2016	Mayurbhanj, Odisha	<p>The GSDS in collaboration with Antyodaya Chetana Mandal organised this sangam at the North Orissa University which was attended by 400 participants from Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Koraput, Kandhamal which are tribal dominated districts of Odisha covering 10 (ten) tribal communities took part.</p> <p>Discussions on issues of the tribals, bio diversity, livelihood, cultural convergence and challenges and the social issues like witch craft, drug abuse like Handia, and language, besides showcasing their rich cultural heritage formed part of the programme.</p>
Residential women awareness programme on Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao	March 10-12, 2016	Dhulagori Mahila Samity Campus, Howrah, West Bengal	<p>The awareness programme reiterated the need to educate the girl child and highlighted concern over the declining female sex ratio in the country and hoped that even women stop inflicting crimes on their own kind.</p>
Adivasi Janjati Kala Sangam	March 28-30, 2016	Kalimpong, West Bengal	<p>About 270 participants took part in the programme organised in association with Kalimpong Krishak Kalyan Sangathan that highlighted Mahatma Gandhi's vision on the tribal's socio-economic and cultural strength and stressed to conserve the traditional knowledge of tribal community specially artisans.</p>
Ang Mahila Sammelan on Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Abhiyaan	March 26-27, 2017	Bhagalpur, Bihar	<p>The programme was organized in association with Vishnu Prabhakar Pratisthan. It emphasized the need to discourage female foeticide and to encourage a healthy upbringing of the girl child by providing equal opportunity in education.</p>



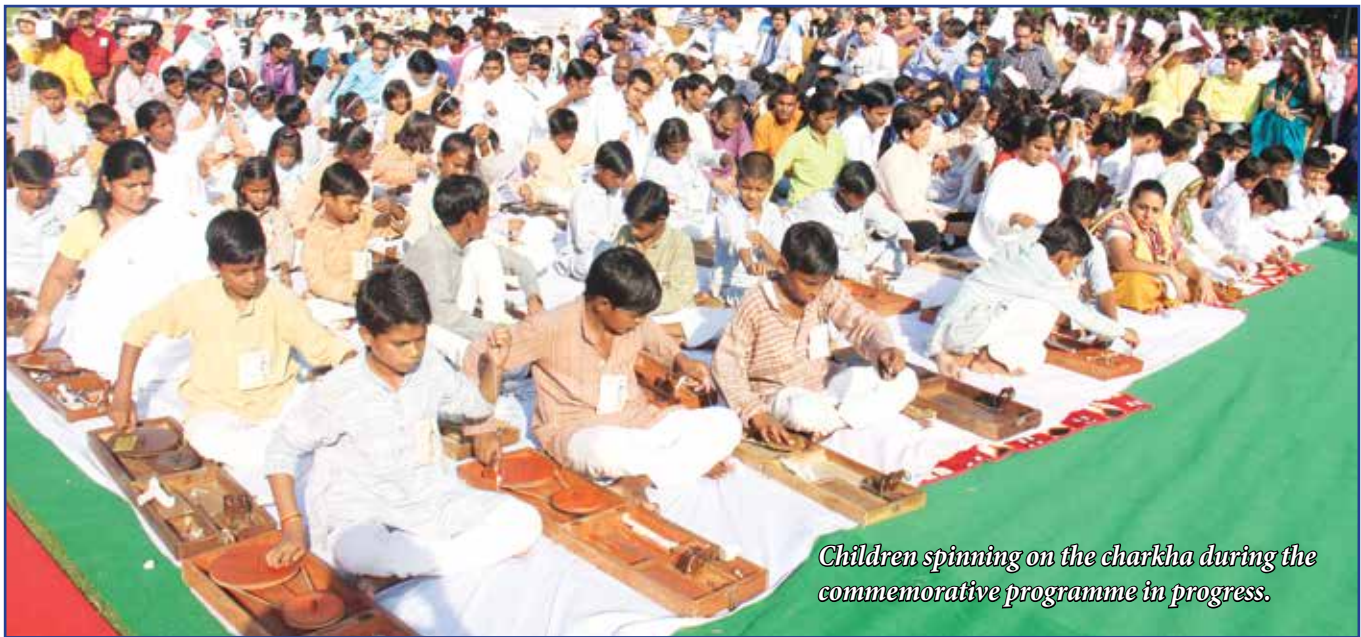
Tributes to Mahatma Gandhi

Gandhi Jayanti celebrated

The Nation paid tributes to Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of his 146th Birth Anniversary on October 2, 2015. The Vice President Dr. Mohammad Hamid Ansari; Member of Parliament, Shri L. K Advani; VC GSDS & Minister of State for Culture (IC), Tourism (IC) & Civil Aviation, Dr Mahesh Sharma, and several other dignitaries paid their tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at a function organized at Gandhi Smriti during the evening prayer.



1. Dr. Mohd. Hamid Ansari, Hon'ble Vice President of India leads the nation in paying rich tributes to Mahatma Gandhi, accompanied by Dr. Mahesh Sharma, hon'ble VC GSDS & HCM and Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS.
2. Former Deputy Prime Minister of India, Shri L K Advani, joins the commemorative prayer.
3. Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Hon'ble VC, GSDS and HCM pays tribute to Mahatma Gandhi.
4. Former VC, GSDS and grand daughter of Gandhiji, Smt. Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee pays tribute to her grandfather in Gandhi Smriti.
5. Shri Anup Jalota offers his tributes to Gandhiji.



Children spinning on the charkha during the commemorative programme in progress.

This year, there were over 350 children from 14 different institutions who joined in a harmonious melody of songs, as a tribute to their dearest Bapuji. They sang compositions of Pt. Ravi Shankar – *Hey Nath hum par kripa kijiye*, to songs that sent out the message of character-building in *Nirmanon ke pawan yug me hum charitra nirman na bhule*.

Also, about 80 children from the Rashtriya Buniyadi Vidyalayas in Kumarbagh Ashram Brindavan, Bettiah, and Sirisia Adda, in Bihar's West Champaran district respectively, who took part in a ten-day residential Value Creation Camp from September 23-October 3, 2015 in Gandhi Darshan, joined the Delhi children in the musical tribute to Gandhiji, which was coordinated by Shri Sudhanshu Bahguna. While Shri Akram Ali Khan accompanied him on the Sitar, Shri Kuldip Kumar was on the Tabla.

Further, during the two-hour long prayer, almost 60 children from Harijan Sevak Sangh at Kingsway Camp – an ashram where the Mahatma chose to live in Delhi during his frequent visits – had continuously spun on the charkha.

On the occasion, Mr. Rajiv Chandran, Director, National Information Officer for India and Bhutan, read out the message of the UN Secretary General H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, stating: *"At a time of escalating conflicts, violent extremism, displacement and hatred, Mahatma Gandhi showed how cooperation and tolerance can prevail over injustice. Mahatma Gandhi had demonstrated the great value of the rule of law in breaking vicious circles of vengeance."* It was in the year 2007, the United Nations declared October 2nd (Gandhi Jayanti) as the International Day of Non-Violence.



For the Lord: Religious heads assemble at Gandhi Smriti to offer their prayers at the Inter-Faith Prayer meet during Gandhi Jayanti.



Above: Children from different schools are seen offering their musical tribute to Gandhiji.

Below: Spinners led by Shri Mihi Lal (C) spin during the prayer meet in Gandhi Smriti.

An inter-faith prayer meeting was held at Gandhi Smriti as a mark of respect to the Father of the Nation. Religious Scriptures from all the major religions of the country were read on the occasion.

Dr Mahesh Sharma along with other senior officers from the Ministry of Culture also visited an archival exhibition based on the life of Mahatma Gandhi at the *pergola* in Gandhi Smriti and offered his tributes to Gandhiji as a formal inauguration of the exhibition. The exhibition has been developed by the National Archives of India under the guidance of renowned Gandhian Dr. Anupam Mishra.

The programme concluded with Bhakti Sangeet and Ram Dhun sung by renowned singer Shri Anup Jalota. Shri Anurodh Jain was on the percussion, Shri Amit Choubey was on the Tabla, Shri Rohan Krishan Rattan was on the Santoor. Ms. Priya Seth and Ms. A Gaur were on the vocal support.

68th Martyrdom Day of Mahatma Gandhi

Dr. Mohd. Hamid Ansari, Vice President of India and Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India led the nation into paying rich tributes to Mahatma Gandhi on the occasion of the 68th anniversary of his martyrdom in an evening inter-faith prayer meet which was held in Gandhi Smriti, the site of the Martyrdom of the Father of the Nation. Minister of Culture and VC GSDS, Dr. Mahesh Sharma was also present on the occasion. The Secretary Ministry of Culture, Shri Narendra Kr. Sinha and his wife; Joint Secretary Shri Pankaj Rag; Director Ms. Bandana Sharma; Under Secretary Ms. Sunita also took part in the programme along with other delegates, members from the Diplomatic Corps and people from different walks of life.



Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi pays homage to Mahatma Gandhi in Gandhi Smriti.

Over 500 children drawn from 16 different institutions of Delhi and NCR as well as children from three different states – Kullu, Himachal Pradesh; Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh; and Nandurbar, Maharashtra took part in the programme and offered a musical tribute to the Mahatma. The children represented: *Himalayan Buddhist Cultural School, Kullu, Himachal Pradesh; Acharya Kakasaheb Kalelkar Lok Seva Kendra, Nandurbar, Maharashtra; Kasturba Mahila Vidyapeeth Intermediate College, Sewapuri, Varanasi; Shahid Hemu Kalani Sarvodaya Bal Vidyalaya School, Lajpat Nagar; Bapa Ashram Residential Primary School, Harijan Sevak Sangh, Kingsway Camp; Rani Dutta Arya Vidyalaya, Pataudi House, Darya*



Buddhist Monks offer their tributes to Mahatma Gandhi in Gandhi Smriti.

Ganj; Chandra Arya Vidya Mandir, East of Kailash; Little Flowers Public Sr. Sec. School, Shahadra; Akshaya Pratisthan, Vasant Kunj; Laxman Public School, Hauz Khas Enclave; Jaspal Kaur Public School, Shalimar Bagh; Kendriya Vidyalaya Sector-28, Rohini; Happy School, Darya Ganj; Rashtriya Virjananda Andh Kanya Sr. Sec. School, Vikaspuri and Pardarshita, New Seema Puri. The



Renowned artists, Pt. Rajan and Pt. Sajan Misra rendered Bhakti Sangeet as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi.

children's musical tribute was coordinated by Shri Sudhanshu Bahuguna of *Swar Trishna*.

Representatives from different religions assembled on the occasion at the inter-faith prayer meet as a tribute to Bapuji. Renowned singers Padma Bhushan, Pt. Rajan and Pt. Sajan Misra rendered the Bhakti Sangeet. Children along with senior weaver Shri Mirilal and Gandhians spun on the charkha during the programme. The commemorative programme concluded with a silent tribute to Mahatma Gandhi.



Former Director GSDS and Director MOC, Smt. Bandana Sharma pays tribute to the Mahatma.



Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi greets school children on the occasion.



Silent Tribute to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi.



Significant Initiatives

Launch of Interpretation Center at Varanasi

A project of establishing an Interpretation Center in the selected educational institutions of Varanasi on luminaries and different cultural themes of Varanasi was envisaged and initiated by Ministry of Culture in January 2015.

The main objectives of these Centers are:

(1) To bring the activities of these Centers in the tourism calendar of Varanasi.



(2) Interpretation Centers should simultaneously provide an opportunity for conducting talent search for professional tour guides and related areas amongst the younger generation of Varanasi, hence relating these initiations leading to job creation and professional development of skills.

The Samiti was assigned to set up an Interpretation Centre at **Kasturba Gandhi Mahila Vidyapeeth, Sewapuri, Varanasi**. After discussions with the officials of the Vidyapeeth, a detailed module on the dissemination of Mahatma Gandhi's message among the students was worked out. This included a permanent exhibition on Gandhiji, enriching school library, workshops with students development of school theatre group, development of radio drama, to organize training programmes in vocations like paper work, tailoring, food preservation etc.

A team from Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti went to Varanasi to develop a museum corner in the Interpretation Centre at Kasturba Balika Vidyalaya Vidyapeeth. The Museum corner that was set up had small exhibition panels, photographs, resource material like books, cds etc. As requested by the Principal of the College, the Samiti would also provide for infrastructural facilities like almirahs, table, chairs, mike, computers etc. to the Centre.

Shri Basant, former Advisor to GSDS (extreme right) along with senior Gandhians and Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan (l) at the inauguration of the 'Interpretation Centre' in Kasturba Mahila Vidyapeeth Intermediate College, Sewapuri Varanasi.



The distinguished guests viewing the exhibition on Gandhiji's life developed by the GSDS at the 'Interpretation Centre'.

Besides, a calendar of programmes to be organized at the Vidyapeeth, Sewapuri in near future is being jointly developed by the Samiti as well as the Vidyapeeth. Moreover, a regular cleanliness programme including the students as teachers has already been initiated. The aim is to reach out to nearby areas to create awareness on the importance of cleanliness.

Ideas of National Integration on Gandhian principles flow at 46th Sarvodaya Samaj Sannelan

About 4000 people comprising of Gandhians, grassroots workers from different parts of the country, several Gandhian organisations, Sarvodaya organisations conglomerated in Gandhi Ashram, Harijan Sevak Sangh on the occasion of the 46th Sarvodaya Samaj Sannelan organised at Gandhi Ashram, Harijan Sevak Sangh, Kingsway Camp from November 1-3, 2015. Senior people from various organisations working on Gandhian ideologies and principles from abroad also took part in the three-day conference and underlined the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi towards promoting a global platform for constructive work for peace and non-violence. The theme of the conference was *From Home Rule to Self Rule* (from Freedom to Swaraj).

Speakers at the conference reiterated the last wishes of Mahatma Gandhi for building an organisation of the constructive workers in India who could carry on constructive work in the villages of India, promotion of khadi and village industries, Nai Talim, prohibition, women empowerment, eradication of untouchability, etc.



Invocation by children during the Sannelan in Harijan Sevak Sangh.

In the Pix (from top to bottom): Inauguration of the 46th Sarvodaya Sannelan attended by over 4000 Gandhian constructive workers saw many distinguished guests like Bal Bhai, Shri Ramji Singh, Shri Bindeshwar Pathak, Km. Radha Bhatt, Dada Dharamadhikari and others.



Distinguished speakers during the 46th Sarvodaya Sammelan in Harijan Sevak Sangh.

The speakers at the three-day conference included: Shri A V Swamy, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha; Padmabhushan Justice (Retd) Dr. C. S Dharmadhikari; Ms. Radha Bhatt, former chairperson of Gandhi Peace Foundation; Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak, Founder Director, Sulabh International; Mr. Peter Ruhe, Director *Gandhi Serve*, Germany; noted journalist Shri Ram Bahadur Rai; Shri A. Annamalai, Director National Gandhi Museum; Shri E P Menon, eminent Gandhian; Sheikh Hussain, Maha Manti Sarva Seva Sangh; Dr. Sukan Baranth; Shri Vijay Bhai, Sarva Seva Sangh; Shri Hem Bhai, Shanti Sadhana Ashram, Guwahati, Assam, Shri Faisal Khan of Khudai Khidmatgar; noted Gandhian, Dr. S N Subba Rao; Sushri Usha Pandit from Gujarat; Swami Agnivesh; Shri P V Rajagopal, President Ekta Parishad; Dr. Sudarshan Iyenger, former VC Gujarat Vidyapeeth; Shri Jayvant Matkar, President Sevagram Ashram Partisthan; Shri Bal Vijay of Khadi Mission Prof. M. P Mathai, Mr. Jean Louis, Bato, Peace Activists,



Shri Laxmi Dass, Secretary of Harijan Sevak Sangh addresses the Gandhian congregation of constructive workers at the 46th Sarvodaya Sammelan.

France; Smt. Krishnamma Jagannathan; Shri Shankar Kumar Sanyal, President, Harijan Sevak Sangh; Shri Mangatram Singhal, VC Harijan Sevak Sangh; Shri Laxmi Dass, Secretary Harijan Sevak Sangh, Shri Narayan Bhai from Gandhi Mission Trust, West Bengal; Shri Chandan Pal, from Gandhi Peace Foundation, West Bengal, Shri Rajneesh Kumar, Secretary Gandhi Samadhi, Rajghat and others.



From Top to Bottom: Convenor of the Sammelan Shri Aditya Patnaik felicitates Mr. Peter Ruhe from Gandhi Serve Foundation Germany and Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS.

Shri Sankar Kumar Sanyal President Harijan Sevak Sangh addresses the gathering.



Discussions, dialogues and presentations by senior and young Gandhian workers were highlights of the Sammelan.

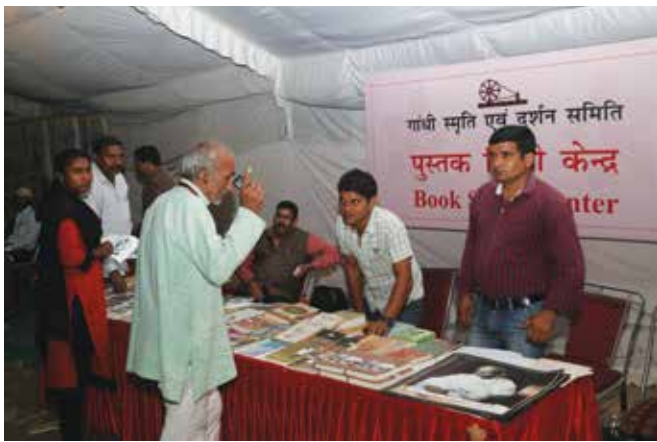
The conference also witnessed various cultural presentations by the representatives of the participating states highlighting the cultural diversity of our country.

Sarvodaya Samaj founded in 1948 by Acharya Vinoba Bhave, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Shri J B Kripalani, Shri Jaya Prakash Narayan and many Gandhian stalwarts for the promotion of Gandhian constructive work, khadi, swadeshi, building harmonious societies based on the ideals of truth, non-violence and equality, the 46th *Sarvodaya Samaj Sammelan* brought forth the need for practical implementation of Gandhian ideologies and sarvodaya.

The conference adopted the resolution that a joint and organized brotherhood of institutions and individuals engaged in constructive activities could contribute towards community and nation



(Above) Bihu dance from Assam and (Below) Mime Presentation by GSDS Mime group from "Srijan", led by Shri Swapan Kumar Sarkar were highlights of the cultural programme.



A book exhibition of Gandhiana and other allied subjects by GSDS was displayed during the sammelan in Harijan Sevak Sangh.

building. It was further felt that only such an organized community alone can create in the country, the energy necessary for a non-violent social reconstruction.

As part of the *Sammelan*, the Samiti had put up an exhibition on Sarvodaya leaders. Also a book exhibition of Gandhiana and other allied subjects was displayed on the occasion.

Different sessions:

1. Mahatma Gandhi's concept of Gram Swaraj;
2. Challenges before Khadi
3. From Antodaya to Sarvodaya
4. Land Rights,
5. Bhoodan and our responsibilities
6. Challenges of violence, alcoholism and terrorism
7. Initiatives of Sarvodaya Samaj towards peace and harmony and
8. The Gandhian Alternatives to the Social, Economic and political challenges worldwide.



Tribal Youth Conclave

The Samiti organized a two-day tribal youth conclave in Kargil, Jammu and Kashmir from March 17-18, 2016. The conclave was organized in association with the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan and Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council. On the opening day, about 300 youth from different ethnic communities of the region took part in the programme.

Talking at the inaugural session, Shri Dipankar Shri Gyan talked about the initiatives of the Samiti in different parts of the country. He talked about the Gandhian constructive programme and how young people could volunteer for constructive work. He said the Samiti could initiate more programmes in the region.

The conclave was inaugurated by the Chief Executive Councillor of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council, Mr Haji Mohammed Hanifa Jan. Mr Jan talked about the initiatives of the Council for youth development in Kargil. He said the Council was working to develop a special Kargil Youth Policy which would ensure focussed support to the youth of the region.



Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan (fifth from left) along with participants during the "Tribal Youth Conclave" in Kargil, stand in reverence for the National Anthem.

Giving a young people's perspective on volunteerism, Amreen Fatima, a student of class IX and a member of the Peace Gong, "It is important volunteerism becomes an essential part of the lives of children and young people. Embracing the spirit of service right from the age when we are kids not teaches children strong core values of humanism but also gives them the opportunities to demonstrate these in action. The habit of giving and participating in social concerns needs to be nurtured right from the beginning."



Youth participants perform a skit organised as part of the programme in Kargil.

The GSDS Programme Officer, Dr Vedabhyas Kundu speaking in the first technical session shared different case studies of youth volunteerism across the country. He talked about the traits of an effective volunteer- importance of communication, team building, time management, social leadership, emotional intelligence.

In the second day, the participating youth were divided into the following groups: Education and Health; Women Empowerment; Skill Development; Kargil youth policy; Kargil children's policy. Each of the groups discussed in details the points threadbare and later made presentations. The overall idea was to promote volunteerism in each of these areas. It was felt volunteerism should be an integral part of the Kargil youth and children policy.



Group exercise formed a major activity of the Kargil Youth Conclave.



Breaking the Cold: Simulation exercises conducted as part of the workshop where the participants (above) are seen taking part with great zeal and enthusiasm.



Beauty of the Hills: Cultural presentations during the programme kept the audiences hooked to their seats.



Programmes for Children

TAKING GANDHI TO SCHOOLS

ITIHAAS learning module at the Gandhi Smriti – Mohandas to Mahatma

Indian Traditions and Heritage Society as part of its initiative with the Samiti, conducted a study tour for the children in Gandhi Smriti on April 16, 2015. During the tour, the children were split into smaller groups. They observed the senior most weaver Shri Mirilal who demonstrated the techniques on the *charkha*, and learnt the wisdom behind the practice. The children were told engaging stories about the childhood of Mahatma Gandhi, and his role in the national freedom struggle. They wrote on a postcard their message for Gandhi. Their understanding of Gandhiji's teachings of non-violence and love for others were clearly reflected in their writings.



In the Pix (from L to R): Orientation of children in progress as part of the “Taking Gandhi to School” programme in Gandhi Darshan. Children are seen engrossed in seeing the exhibition and taking part in the discussion.

They went around the Martyr's Column, the room of Gandhi where he spent his last days in the erstwhile Birla House and saw the place he used for his prayer meetings. They also enjoyed the tour around the enriching multimedia museum.

After this, to complete the learning, they went to see the replica of Gandhiji's ashram near Sabarmati, in the National Gandhi Museum (NGM). In the serene environment here, the children meditated quietly for a while, before proceeding to NGM.

Sun Valley International School visits Gandhi Darshan

An interactive-cum-exposure visit for the students of Sun Valley International School, Vasundhara was conducted on April 21, 2015 in



Gandhi Darshan during their visit of the school to see the exhibition *My Life is My Message*. Almost 40 students visited the exhibition.

The students were briefed on the life and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi during the tour. Thereafter a session was conducted with them, in which the children shared their experiences of the visit.

Excerpts from some of the observations by the children are as follows:

Gandhi Darshan is a place where I found Gandhi is moving, talking and expressing his feelings to me. There are so many morals that are associated with his life. He spoke of sanitation and the government has also launched the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan. In my locality the green and clean parks have become a place where garbage is dumped. I hope some improvement is there.

Aritra Pramanik (VIII-D)

वैष्णव जन तो तेने कहिये/गाकर पीड़ा भोगी।/ 'ईश्वर – अल्ला तेरे नाम' /भजकर हुआ वियोगी।/

कुछ कहते, 'भारत की आत्मा' /कुछ कहते हैं संत।/ बापु बन गया महात्मा, /साबरमती का संत।/

सत्य-अहिंसा की मूरत वह, /चरखा-खादी वाला।/ आज़ादी के रंग में जिसने, /जग को ही रंग डाला।

Sakshi Verma (VI-D)

Sanitation (स्वच्छता) :- अगर आपके घर में शौचालय नहीं है तो बनवायें क्योंकि अगर कल आप या आपके बच्चे खेत में जाते हैं शौच करने के लिए तो उस पे मखियाँ भिन-भिनायेंगी और फिर वो आपके खाने पर आएँगी और फिर आप बिमार हो जाएँगे।

Women self defence: *Just now the Hon'ble Prime Minister has started the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Abhiyaan. We must all start acting on the same line of thought and empower ourselves.*

Khushi Pandit (VIIG)

Children and Youth as Peace-builders: An Orientation Programme on Peace Building

An orientation programme on peace-building on "Children and Youth as Peace-builders" was organized in Gandhi Darshan on May 14, 2015. Over 80 children along with their teachers from G R M Public School, Ranholla, Nangloi, participated in

the day-long orientation programme. Mrs. Kamna Jha coordinated the children's visit from her school.

The programme began with an introduction to Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti which was subsequently followed by the visit to the exhibition *My Life is My Message*. The tour of the exhibition was conducted by Ms. Rachna, Volunteer Guide at GSDS.



(Above:) Smt. Shashwati Jhalani, Smt. Geeta Shukla, Shri Rajdeep Pathak, Ms. Rachna of GSDS and Smt. Kamna Jha from GRM School are seen interacting with children. (Below:) Group exercises were conducted with the children from GRM School as part of the orientation programme.

Later the orientation programme was conducted by Mrs. Geeta Shukla, Research Officer GSDS and Mrs. Shashwati Jhalani, Librarian GSDS and Rajdeep Pathak, Programme Executive. They explained to the children the basic values of Gandhian philosophy and the need to emulate these in our daily lives which would help create a harmonious society and nation.

Inspiring incidents from Mahatma Gandhi's life were narrated to the children. They were told how a simple, shy but very truthful child went on to



Children were also given live hands on demonstration of the nuances of Charkha spinning during the orientation programme by Shri Dharamraj (above) .

become extraordinary, revered by the entire world. In a way he was and will always be a global rather an icon.

the nuances of the art of spinning. The enthusiastic children liked the session, for it was the first time for many of them.

Discussion on the first war of Indian Independence and the Gandhian Era in the freedom struggle – 1857-1947

To remember the martyrs of the First War of India's Independence in 1857 an interactive programme with school students was organized in Gandhi Darshan Library on May 15, 2015. The discussion was based on the First War of Indian Independence and the Gandhian Era in the Freedom Struggle – 1857-1947.

The school was Modern Academy, Indirapuram. The group of children were accompanied by two teachers Ms. Neeta Rastogi and Ms. Shilpi Bose, The student group was represented by Garima Singh, Mansi Srivastava,

Excerpts from the group presentations are as under:

जब हम सड़क पर किसी वाहन से व पैदल जाते हैं, तो वहाँ बहुत घटनाएँ हिंसा की वजह बनती हैं। जब कोई व्यक्ति शराब पीकर तथा फोन पर बातें करते हुए वाहन चलाते हैं, तो दुर्घटना घटती है और कोई व्यक्ति घायल हो जाता है। दोनों व्यक्तियों में मारपीट व झगड़ा हो जाता है और चोट लग जाती है इसमें दोनों व्यक्तियों का ही नुकसान हो जाता है। तभी मारपीट छुड़ाने कोई तीसरा व्यक्ति आकर उन्हें समझाने की कोशिश करता है। घायल व्यक्ति को वह अस्पताल ले जाकर अहिंसा का इस्तमाल करता है। इस मारपीट में किसी का भी फायदा नहीं होता, तथा चोट लग जाती है। हमें उसी तीसरे व्यक्ति की तरह हिंसा का साथ न देकर अहिंसा को अपनाना चाहिए।

Pooran (IX B), Priyanka (IX B), Varsha (VIII A), Pooja (IX A), Sapna (IX B), Ashish (VIII B), Mohit (IX A), Praful (VIII B)

शांति के निर्माण में बच्चों तथा युवाओं की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका है। जैसा कि हम जानते हैं कि बच्चे और युवा ही हमारे देश के भविष्य हैं। हमारे देश में अभी अनेकों जगह लड़ाई झगड़े हो रहे हैं लोग एक दूसरे को मारने के लिए आतुर हैं ऐसा लगता है कि सब एक दूसरे की जान के प्यासे हैं। हम बच्चे जो हैं उनका मन साफ रहता है अतः हमें चाहिए कि हम अपने मन में अच्छे अच्छे विचार डालें, आपस में प्रेम करें ताकि हमारा भविष्य सुनहरा हो। अगर हमारे बच्चे और युवा समझदार हों और अहिंसा के मार्ग पर चलें तो हो सकता है कि हमारा भारत वर्ष ही नहीं बल्कि पूरे विश्व में शांति और भाई चारा हो। धरती पर चारो तरफ अशांति है परन्तु बच्चों ने दूसरों को समझाया कि यह सब करना बुरी बात है तब सब समझ गए और हमारी पृथ्वी पर शांति फैल गई।

Chandan (IX A), Eklavya (IX A), Gaurav (IX A), Anmol, (VIII B), Sonu (IX A), Shalini (IX B), Shreya (VIII A), Khushbu (VIII A)

The children were divided into groups of eight to ten and prepared charts and posters on the need for peace building and how they could contribute in the process. The children came up with fresh ideas and discussed how they would implement them.

The children also tried their hands at the spinning wheel (charkha) as part of the workshop. Ms. Renu and Mr. Dharamraj explained the children

Aditya Deo Garg, Amolpreet Saini, Nasreen Jaleel, Saunya Rai, and Ritik Chaurasia.

The discussion was led by the Librarian of the Samiti, Mrs. Shashwati Jhalani. The interaction was based on the role of the 1857 events leading to the independence achieved in 1947 under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi. The children also collected materials for their school project, on 1857 as a catalyst for the freedom struggle leading to the nation's independence.

Role of Children and Youth in Peace-building: A workshop

In continuation to the endeavor of GSDS to acquaint students on the values and ideals of Mahatma Gandhi and prepare them to contribute to peace initiatives, a workshop was organized for students of St. Teresa School on July 25, 2015 in Gandhi Darshan. About 50 students took part in this workshop.



Above: A child shows his sketch of Mahatma Gandhi;

Below: Mime artist Shri Swapan Kumar Sarkar enacts a short mime presentation on "Peace" for the students.

The students were taken round the First Pavilion in Gandhi Darshan. During an interactive session students were told about the importance of peace and nonviolence and the Gandhian perspectives to this. They were told about the importance of co-existence in their daily lives.

They were informed about Mahatma Gandhi's views on the essence of compassion and love for all. He had said ill-will, anger and hate will not be able to bring any peace in the society. Every effort

should be made to make peace real and tangible in the daily existence of every individual in the society.

During the discussion it was further pointed out that there could be situation of conflicts in homes, schools, colleges, workplaces, institutions and communities. In all such situations with practical knowledge and understanding of the dynamics of peacebuilding everyone can play the role of a peace-builder. Peace-building, hence should be seen as an essential component of life skill education.

Bapu had visualized the importance of preparing young people to address conflicts and be the change agents to further a culture of peace.

The students gave their views on how they could resolve conflicts within their schools, homes and within friends. Differences should be resolved so that peace can be promoted, it was felt.

Value Creation Camp organized

The Samiti organized an 11-day residential *Value Creation Camp* for the children of the Rashtriya Buniyadi Vidyalaya, Kumarbagh Ashram, Brindavan, Bettiah and Rashtriya Buniyadi Vidyalaya, Sirisia Adda, West Champaran, Bihar in Gandhi Darshan from September 23-October 3, 2015. About 80 children along with their teachers and coordinators took part in the camp.

The camp was coordinated by Shri Ganesh. The others who assisted Shri Ganesh included Ms. Rachna, Ms. Lalita, Mr. Piyush, Ms. Neha, Mr. Dharamraj, Mr. Rakesh, Mr. Shivdutt.



Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan joins the children and their teacher in the lamp lighting ceremony at the Value Creation Camp in Gandhi Darshan.

Mrs. Geeta Shukla, Research Officer, GSDS and Mrs. Shashwati Jhalani, Librarian GSDS took classes on diary writing and understanding Gandhi. Shri Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer was the overall coordinator of the camp.

The camp was inaugurated by the Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan on September 24, 2014 along with the children of the Vidyalaya and the senior staff of GSDS. The children performed songs on Champaran Satyagraha.

Various other activities that were conducted during the camp included:

- *Shramdaan conducted by the entire team*
- *Prayer and Yoga conducted by Piyush, Ganesh and Rakesh*
- *Charkha Spinning, conducted by Renu, Namrata and Dharamraj*
- *Comics workshop conducted by Shivdutt*
- *Communications workshop conducted by Ganesh*
- *Workshop on Naturopathy by Dr. Manju Agarwal*
- *Musical training by entire team*
- *Reading-cum-discussion on Moniya conducted by Ms. Rachna*
- *Mime workshop was conducted by Shri Swapan Kumar Sarkar*
- *Sports and Games was conducted by whole team*
- *Craft work – Uma, Renu and Namrata*



1. Shri Shivdutt trains children in comics and painting workshop.
2. Children during morning prayer in Gandhi Darshan.
- 3 & 4. Children during their daily shramdaan as part of the camp.
5. A visit to the newspaper office 'Veer Arjun' was organised for the children to see the process of newspaper printing.





(From L to R): Shri Kumar Prashant, Shri K K Rai and Shri Aditya Patnaik addresses the children at the valedictory function of the Value Creation Camp in Gandhi Darshan.

Speaking to the children, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan recalled the contribution of Rajkumar Shukla in pursuing Gandhiji to lead the historic Satyagraha in Champaran which is completing 100 years in 2017. He hoped that the children and the teachers of the Vidyalaya would actively participate in taking up initiatives towards engaging the community as a preparation of the 100 years of the celebrations of Champaran Satyagraha.

During the camp, noted communications expert, Prof. T K Thomas – who had earlier provided training to the children at the Vidyalaya in Bettiah – met the students and interacted with them on how

they could use communications to address many issues.

A cultural presentation by artistes from the *Kala Mandali Gandhi Hindustani Sahitya Sabha* was a major attraction of the Value Creation Camp. Presentations of Sitar recital by Shri Uma Shankar; *Chhau* dance by the young Triyan Pratibhimb, a short play *Nugra Ka Tamasha* by Shri Suman Kumar kept the children hooked to their seats.



Cultural presentations by artists from Kala Mandali (left top) and Mime presentation by children from the Value Creation Camp were highlights of the valedictory function.

Below (L) Smt. Gita Shukla, Research Officer GSDS presents a token to artists from Kala Manadali.



As part of the camp, the children were taken to the office of Veer Arjun newspaper for an interaction with their Associate Editor, Mr. S Misra.

The children were also taken for a Delhi Gandhi Darshan tour. Also visit to the Gandhi Samadhi Rajghat, and the National Gandhi Museum were organized, besides their visit to the exhibitions in Gandhi Darshan.

The children from Champaran attended the morning commemorative prayer service in Gandhi Samadhi Rajghat on October 2, 2015.

The valedictory function of the *Value Creation Camp* was organized on October 3, 2015 in Gandhi Darshan. Senior Gandhians from the Gandhian fraternity graced the occasion. Among them who were present included, Secretary of Gandhi Peace Foundation, Shri Kumar Prashant, Shri Ramesh Sharma, noted advocate Shri K K Rai, former advisor to GSDS Shri Basantji, Aditya Patnaik, Director National Gandhi Museum, Dr A Annamalai. Certificates and prizes were awarded to all the participants who were also given Khadi caps made by the inmates of Tihar Central Jail No4.

Traditional cultural performances by children such as folk songs, dances, skits, mime were another special highlight of the valedictory programme. The children left their impression of the activities of the camp in a ten-meter long cloth where they painted and wrote their thoughts, sharing their experiences. The teachers of the two Vidyalayas also shared their experiences and expressed their hope that the Samiti would continue to work for the holistic development of the children.

Inter-School Dandi March Competition

The Samiti organized its annual *Inter-School Dandi March Competition* on October 28, 2015. About 40 children from 20 schools from Delhi and NCR region took part in the competition. The theme was what Mahatma Gandhi had said,



Participating children from different schools engaged in article writing and poster making as part of the Inter-School Dandi March Rolling Trophy competition.

RESULTS	PAINTING COMPETITION	WRITTEN COMPETITION
First Prize	Rabjot Singh, Kalka Public School	Pragya Jaiswal/Vishal Singh, Sun Valley International School
Second Prize	Tanvi and Vanshika, Summerfields School	Mousami Singh/Sneha Rawat St. Teresa Public School
Third Prize	Divya Prasad/Kshitij Kendriya Vidyalaya, Masjid Moth	Harshik Maheja/Neha Gupta Hansraj Model School
1 st Appreciation Prize	Kamran Siddiqui Evergreen Public School, Mayur Vihar	Riya Choudhary and Ayushi Jain Little Flowers Public School
2 nd Appreciation Prize	Yogesh Kumar Lilawati Vidya Mandir	Shivangi Stuti and Anardeep Singh, St. Marks School, Meera Bagh
3 rd Appreciation Prize	Shivani Chauhan Mayur Public School	Parul Khattar and Saumyajeet Das KIIT World School
4 th Appreciation Prize	Aarushi Shradha Jain Bharti Mrigawati School	Ramandeep Kaur Bedi GTB Third Centenary School, Mansarovar Garden

“There is enough for everyone’s needs but not for everyone’s greed.” Children wrote an article on the topic and developed a related poster.

19th Mosaic Inter-school on-the-spot Painting Competition organised

About 1500 children from 23 schools of Delhi and NCR took part in the 19th Mosaic Inter-School on-the-spot Painting Competition in Gandhi Darshan on November 24, 2015. The theme of the competition was *Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao* and *Clean India*. Specially challenged children from several institutions also took part in the competition. The competition was organised jointly by GSDS and Happy School, Daryaganj.



1



2



3



4

1. Distinguished gathering at “19th Mosaic” painting competition in Gandhi Darshan.

2 & 3. Children bring out their creativity during the painting competition.

4. (Fine Strokes): Renowned painter Shri Suraj Sadan, paints Mahatma Gandhi during the programme.

The competition was organised for students from different age-groups from Class Nursery to Class XII. From painting Nature to Gandhi, the children displayed their emotional and creative outburst through their paintings on issues related to violence on women and girl child, health and sanitation, national integration and so on.

The distinguished guests in the competition included: Mrs. Vinita Shanker, Dy. Director of Education, Distt. Central, New Delhi; Shri Rajneesh, Secretary, Gandhi Samadhi, Rajghat; Shri A. Annamalai, Director, National Gandhi Museum; Shri Amit Dutt, Artist and Freelancer; Ms. Smita Vats, Founder Director, Indian Traditions Heritage Society (ITIHAAS); Ms. Neera Mishra, Founder Chairperson, Draupadi Dream Trust, Mr. Ashok Kumar, Education Officer, Zone XXVII, Delhi; Shri Biraja Mahapatra, Sr. Advocate, Supreme Court of India and President Build India Group; Prof. K K Sen, Development Officer, People’s Institute of Development and Training (PIDT); Mrs. Krishan Kumar, Hony Secretary, Happy School.

World acclaimed artist, Shri Suraj Sadan, famous for his work on “Faces of Freedom” was a special guest on the occasion. Shri Suraj Sadan has held exhibitions around the world and his works are in high demand among both collectors and ordinary art lovers, and can be found in the collections of the Canadians parliament, U.N.E.S.C.O., World Health Organization, the National Academy of Art,

the National Film Board, and embassies around the world, just to name a few.

As part of the programme, Shri Suraj Sadan left his artistic impression on the canvas by painting Mahatma Gandhi. Earlier, the Programme began with the lighting of the lamp by the guests and an invocation by students of the musical choir group of Happy School. The guests also visited the exhibition entitled *My Life Is My Message* led by the Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan and the Principal of Happy School, Mrs. Gita Arora.

Birla Vidya Niketan wins Vande Mataram Musical Competition on “Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao”



Over 170 students from 17 schools of Delhi and NCR; and one school from Alwar, Rajasthan, took part in the *Inter-school Vandemataram Rolling Trophy Musical Competition* organised by the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in Gandhi Darshan on December 22, 2015. The theme of the competition was *Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao*. Children were asked to perform on self-written and self-composed songs on the theme. The judges on the occasion were: Smt. Maya Bhattacharya, Smt. Urmil Wadhwa, Smt. Sukrita Sen Bhattacharjee and Shri Gaurav Sharma.

On this occasion, Ms. France Grand also showcased the statue of Gandhiji created on rags by artist Anne-Valerie Dupond from France. Speaking to the children, she hoped that institutions in Delhi would welcome the artist to showcase her work, as well as to conduct workshops.

Details of Prizes:

- The Winning Team that took home the *Vande Mataram Rolling Trophy* was Birla Vidya Niketan, Pushp Vihar.
- The Second Prize was won by Guru Teg Bahadur 3rd Centenary Public School, Manasarover Garden, New Delhi.
- The Third Prize winners were East Point School, Vasundhara Enclave.

Appreciation Prizes:

The judges decided on awarding four appreciation prizes to the following schools:

- Summer Fields School, Kailash Colony,
- Jain Bharati Mrigawati, Vidyalaya, G T Karnal Road, Haryana
- The Sagar School, Alwar Rajasthan
- St. Cecilia's Public School, Vikaspuri.

1. Renowned vocalist Smt. Sukriti Sen Bhattacharjee lights the inaugural lamp as Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan and RJ Gaurav Sharma is all smiles.

2. Participating children from one of the schools perform a self-composed, self-written song on “Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao.”

3 & 4. (Master Touch): Judges- Mr. Gaurav Sharma (l) and Smt. Sukriti Sen Bhattacharjee enthuse the audience with their numbers.

Value Creation Camp Organised

The Samiti organised a ten-day Value Creation Camp for almost 100 children and their coordinators from three different institutions outside Delhi. The children came from *Kasturba Mahila Vidyapeeth Intermediate College, Sewapuri, Varanasi; Himalayan Buddhist Cultural School, Kullu, Himachal Pradesh and Acharya Kakasaheb Kalelkar Lok Seva Kendra, Nandurbar, Maharashtra*. The inaugural ceremony was organised on January 23, 2016 on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose.

During the ten-day camp the children participated in various activities that included: Prayer and Yoga, Shramdaan, Charkha Spinning, Diary Writing, Craft-making, games, musical training programme, cultural activities of each group.

Group exercises formed part of the camp which began with an ice-breaking session conducted by Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu. During the camp, a session on peace and conflict resolution was also conducted by Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu.

Glimpses from the Value Creation Camp in Gandhi Darshan





(From L to R): Justice Vikramaditya Prasad shares his experiences with the children, as Shri Ramesh Sharma (R) breaks into a youthful song for the children at the valedictory function of the Value Creation Camp.

Readings from the *Moniya*, the book on the life of Mahatma Gandhi was read out by Smt. Shashwati Jhalani, Librarian GSDS and Camp Coordinator.

The musical training programme was conducted by Shri Sudhanshu Bahuguna.

A special session with Ms. Rebecca, a documentary filmmaker from California who had made a film *Women of the Mountains* featuring women from different walks of life and age-groups on a tracking mission in the Alps and the Himalayas. These trackers *run for fun* in difficult terrains, without any competition and with a mission to *rise above*. The session inspired the children to pursue their goals for future.

The children also took part in the function to mark the celebrations for the 67th Republic Day on January 26, 2016. The Director led the participating children and coordinators into the celebrations by hoisting the Indian Tricolour at Gandhi Darshan.

The children also took part in the commemorative programme to mark the 68th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi's Martyrdom in Gandhi Smriti, which was attended by the Vice President, Prime Minister, Minister of Culture and a host of other delegates.

The children displayed their talents during the experience sharing sessions at the "Valedictory Function" of the Value Creation Camp on January 31, 2016 at Gandhi Darshan. Cultural performances by groups were special highlight of the programme.

Present on the occasion were Justice Vikramaditya Prasad and his wife; Shri Ramesh

Sharma, from the Gandhi Peace Foundation, Km. Kusum Shah, Secretary, Gandhi Hindustani Sahitya Sabha, Sadhvi Swaminiji Gurupriyananda from Adhyatama Vidya Mandir, Ahmedabad.



Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan observes the eye camp conducted by the team of doctors from AIIMS during the camp as the children wait for their turns.

The schools were recognised with prizes based on their performances and involvement during the camp.

The first prize went to the *Himalayan Buddhist Cultural School, Kullu, Himachal Pradesh*. The Second prize went to *Acharya Kakasaheb Kalelkar Lok Seva Kendra, Nandurbar, Maharashtra* and the third prize went to *Kasturba Mahila Vidyapeeth Intermediate College, Sewapuri, Varanasi*.

As a representative of the teaching community, Shri Hemant Puroshattam Patil from the *Acharya Kakasaheb Kalelkar Lok Seva Kendra, Nandurbar, Maharashtra* was recognised for his coordination and team spirit with all the children during the camp.



(Cultural Extravaganza): Vivid cultural presentations by children from Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra and Varanasi brought out the rich diversity of Indian culture during the Value Creation Camp in Gandhi Darshan.

From the GSDS the camp was coordinated by the following:

1. Ms. Shashwati Jhalani – Camp Coordinator
2. Ms. Geeta Shukla – Orientation on Gandhiji's life
3. Dr. Manju Aggarwal and Ms. Sarita – medical
4. Ms. Madhu and Ms. Reeta – Assistant Coordinators
5. Mr. Dharamraj – Assistant
6. Mr. Sailesh and Mr. Mukesh – Human power assistants
7. Ms. Renu and Ms. Namrata – Charkha Spinning
8. Ms. Uma, Ms. Varsha and Ms. Neha – Art and Craft
9. Mr. Vivek and Mr. Piyush – Sound
10. Mr. Pankaj, Mr. Rajeev – House Keeping Staff





Programmes for Youth

Change Festival brings in a festival of change

A forum of sharing ideas, experiment and initiatives

Youth Alliance, in collaboration with Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti organised the *Change Festival* – an exploration and celebration of ideas and people driving change – in Gandhi Darshan from April 3-5, 2015. In its first residential gathering of 120 people from over 17 states across the country, it brought together all the stakeholders of a ‘university ecosystem’ – be it students, alumni, parents, teachers, funders, decision makers and others, as one community. They, as a collective, envisioned a novel university ecosystem that encouraged learning by doing and nurtured enterprises that brought about inner transformation within all those involved. It also provided a space to celebrate the actions of development that are taking place at a global level.



Participants from over 17 states gather for the “Change Festival” in Gandhi Darshan.

The working module that was adopted was:

Creating a ‘community’ based on certain values

Sharing ‘story of Change Festival’ and the larger purpose

Creating Space for participant to ‘present ideas’

Letting Ideas emerge from ‘realm of Self to Community’ becoming *circles of practice*

‘Collaborative Nurturing’ i.e. group exercises, start-ups, team work, etc.

Learning Circles

Reaping the ‘harvests, offering support and celebration’.

The discussion largely focussed on the following principles:

- i. Creating foundation for feeling of community (shared ownership)
- ii. Building up a relationship with ‘individuals’ and ‘society’
- iii. Talking about inner transformation as the focus of enterprise
- iv. Connecting ‘gifts to relationships to enterprise’
- v. Talking about collaboration and its significance in the ecosystem of love, empathy and trust
- vi. ‘Gift Economy’ and ‘Multiple forms of Capital’.

The mentors during the Change Festival were:

- i. Mr. Deven Shah, the leader of two experimental projects: *WikiPaisa.com* (a collaborative platform to make money simple and life happy) and *StartupKindness.org* (an initiative to facilitate and multiply acts of generosity in the entrepreneurial ecosystem presently creating safe spaces for entrepreneurs to support each other).
- ii. Mr. Ravi Gulati, the founder Director of *Manzil*, (a non-profit organization providing a community and resources for local youth from low-income backgrounds to learn, teach, be creative, and see the world in new ways).
- iii. Mr. Vivek Sharma, (the founding member of *Kaivalya Education Foundation*, a social change organization working in the field of education in India. KEF's intervention started in 2008 with the focus to transform the quality of education in public schools by providing leadership training to school principals. Since then, we have partnered with many government, private, and educational institutions to impact more than 1235 schools in three states of Rajasthan, Gujarat, and Maharashtra).
- iv. Mr. Anshu Gupta, the founder of *Goonj* (a non-governmental organisation based in Delhi, which works in 21 states across India in disaster relief, humanitarian aid and community development. Established in 1999, has converted 1,000 tonnes of used clothes, household goods and other urban discards into usable resources for the poor. It collects and delivers 1,000 tons of material every year through a network of 500 volunteers and 250 partners).

During the two-day interactive session, about 24 teams shared their ideas and start-ups with the collective, out of which ten ideas emerged for the gathering to brainstorm on further issues, in terms of how to strengthen and take it forward around four major values – from *transaction to trust; from consumption to contribution; from scarcity to abundance and from isolation to community* – all based on the concept of 'gift economy'.

One of the points where the discussion focussed was on the whole concept of 'Gift Economy', where goods and services are given without any strings attached – an economic system in which the circulation of the gifts within the community leads to increase i.e. increase in connections, relationship strength, etc, thereby showing/projecting a shift from consumption to contribution, transaction to trust, scarcity to abundance and isolation to community. This idea was mooted on the concept of 'Giving In Full Trust' (GIFT).

The participants acknowledged the sheer beauty and humility of this system. For them, living gift-economy is to first become aware of that kindness and express gratitude.

They also discussed the various forms of 'Capital' which they elaborated as – *intellectual, spiritual, social, material, financial, living, cultural and experiential*. These were further expanded into eight forms of currency, each having its own different characteristics.

The festival created a learning community by exploring and understanding individuals who are engaged in transformational experiments and strengthening them with multiple forms of capital on the dual focus – along with the intention to impact the outer world, it focussed on the inner transformation of 'doers'.

Change Festival helped me to further enhance my understanding on larger purpose of self and together as a society. I realised that we as a single individual is not exclusive to group of people and society as a whole. The whole concept of CF that revolved around inward looking and questioning the "Why" was a very meaningful.

In Sight

Aashish Beergi

100 Years of Gandhi's Return to India from South Africa

Orientation of Youth in Peace-Building

An orientation of "Youth in Peace-Building" was organised in Gandhi Darshan on April 8, 2015 for peace yatri from the Department of History, Maharaja's College, Ernakulam, Kerala. The 20-member team with their message *Dilse Rajghat* (a journey from Maharajas to Mahatma) discussed how youth could contribute towards peace-building initiatives beginning from their community.



Participants during the discussion on peace building initiatives in Gandhi Darshan.

The participants included: Ms. Anju M.A; Ms. Reshma M. R; Ms. Reshma T.P; Ms. Thirtha, C.P; Ms. Saranya Viswambaran, Navneet Krishnan; S, Sabis Augusthy; Dr. Vinod Kumar, Ms. Binny Sebastian, Soumya P.S; Ms. Reshma Joseph; Mr. Justin Joseph; Ms. Geetha C; Mr. Sumar Raj; Mr. Nitin George; Ms Anu M.N; Ms. Geetha P.C and Mr. Muhammed Sabeel K. There were students from Seetha Sadan in Mallappuram, Vidyodaya School, Kochi and BMLP School Vaniyam Kulam who also took part in the discussion. The discussion was led by Shri Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS along with Mrs. Geeta Shukla, Research Officer, Mrs. Shashwati Jhalani, Librarian and Rajdeep Pathak, Programme Executive.

The discussion started on the nature of contemporary conflicts and their impact on the society. Different aspects of violence including physical violence, structural and cultural violence were discussed. This was linked to Mahatma Gandhi's notion of resolving conflicts through non-violent action. There was discussion on how Bapu used non-violent means to help resolve contentious issues.

At the end there was discussion on today's youth could learn from nonviolent apostles like Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela and use these to contribute towards a culture of peace and nonviolence.

Place where elderly are not respected is doomed to suffer: Rajnath Singh

(Campaign on Elderly Health Promotion through Young Generation)



(Above): Union Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh addresses the gathering at the launch of the campaign "Empowering Elderly Through Young Generation - A Pan India Health Awareness Campaign" in Gandhi Darshan, as people listen with rapt attention.

Hon'ble Union Home Minister of India, Shri Rajnath Singh, launched the campaign on *Elderly Health Promotion through Young Generation - A*

pan India health awareness campaign to promote active aging in Gandhi Darshan on January 17, 2016 at a special function. The Programme was organised by Healthy Aging India in association with the GSDS, All India Institute of Medical Sciences and the Times Foundation. Almost 500 people from different walks of life took part in the programme. Among those present on the occasion were Dr. Prasun Chatterjee, Shri Harshvardhan Ojha, Prof. Dr. A B Dey.



Hon'ble Shri Rajnath Singh and other delegates with students of Apeejay School Faridabad and Vasan International School during the programme.

Reiterating the value-systems that entrusts us with the responsibility towards the elderly people or senior citizens, Hon'ble Union Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh said, "A place where the elderly are not respected is doomed to suffer and even God does not forgive". He added that those who mistreat or harshly behave with the aged, will suffer.

The Hon'ble Home Minister regretted that old-age homes have to be created in India to rehabilitate the aged. He also said that it was important for the country to emerge as a global teacher (vishwa guru) rather than aspiring to be a super power. Revoking the teachings from the Ramayana, Shri Rajnath Singh said that following the principles of Lord Ram is a unique quality, which everyone should learn and imbibe. Lord Ram kept his principles intact and even went for 14 years in exile to keep his father's word and respect, he asserted.

A decent, educated and developed society is expected to take care of its old people. I do not know whom to hold guilty for the loss of life values in the society... should we hold the education system responsible for it or something else...I don't know," he said and urged the youngsters and others to take inspiration from age-old Indian traditions and values, to not only help the old, but also to make the country strong in this process.

The Union Home Minister also honoured a number of old people from different walks of life on the occasion.

Sharing his views on the occasion, Dr. Prasun Chatterjee said: "This aim of the campaign is to empower the senior citizens of our country by Intergenerational bonding and by active aging with meaningful engagement". "This campaign will not only reduce the disease burden of senior citizen, it will also strengthen social and familial bondage across the generation, thereby creating a better nation", he added.

During the programme, while students of Apeejay School Faridabad gifted wheel chairs to the aged people, the students of Vasan International School launched a documentary video on the aged people titled *dada-dadi, nana nani*.

• CHATTISGARH

Youth Development for Constructive Work and Pre-Career Guidance Programme at Mahasamund



Participants with CCBOS Chairman, Shri Umesh Chandra Gaur (fourth from left front row) join for a photo shoot.

The Samiti in association with Confederation of Community Based Organizations of India (CCBOS) (a national level organization for varied developmental activities across different segments especially in rural area) jointly organized "Youth Development for Constructive Work and Pre-Career Guidance Programme" on January 18 -19, 2016 at Mahasamund, Chattishgarh. The programme was organised at Shankaracharya Cultural Centre. Almost 300 students pursuing 10-12 classes, from nearby schools, including a few from Rajnand Gaon, Durg and also from Baster, participated. Many experts, professionals addressed the students on study-career options. There were others who added colours to the event, by showcasing their extracurricular activities through stage performance of dance and music.

The aim of the programme was to provide an opportunity towards pre-career guidance and involve them in constructive work in the society. The programme was inaugurated by Chief Guest, Dr. Vimal Chopra, MLA; Mr. Rajesh Goyal, Founder and Chairman of IIP Foundation, Delhi; Mr. Pawan Patel, Chairman Municipal Council, Dr. Umesh Chandra Gaur, Chairman, CCBOS & Smt. Sadhna Umesh Gaur- Advocate High Court & member of State Vigilance & Monitoring Committee, Government of India.



Participants at the Mahasamund workshop organised by GSDS in association with CCBOS.

Among others who were present and interacted with the students included: Mr. Ghanshyam Singh, Member, District Child Welfare Committee, Government of Chattishgarh; Mr. Maniprasad, a professional in HR Management; Dr. Sandeep Gandhi, Registrar of Kalinga University Raipur; Mr. Alok Singh Thakur, President of Shradham Society for Rural Development & Management and Mr. Deepak Chandrakar, Director and Producer, Chhattisgarh Films.

• **MAHARASHTRA**

Promoting volunteerism amongst youth for constructive work and nation-building

A Youth Conclave on “Promoting volunteerism amongst youth for constructive work” and nation-building was organized at Siddagiri Gurukul Foundation, Kaneri Math on January 22-24, 2016. This Youth Conclave was organized to equip the Youth Groups with information, perspective and skills on several kind of constructive work in their society and other youth role related issues.

The aim of the training workshop was to raise the voice of the youth on development for rural India and to understand and address these concerns from the youth perspective as opposed to

the society’s point of view. The participants of this conclave were volunteers from Maharashtra, Goa and Karnataka. About 120 participants (80 men and 40 women) took part in the programme.

The conclave was inaugurated by P.P. Adhrishya Kath Siddeshwar Swamiji (49th Mathadipati Kaneri Math Kolhapur), Shri Kripa Prasad Singh (Vanvasikalyan Aashram) and Neelkanth Kurubar (janjag Ransansta, Karnataka).

Dr. Manoj Singh and his team from Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha who interacted with the participants briefed them on the methodologies of organising group discussions, workshops on a specific issues and how to make a group discussion effective. In this session volunteers learnt how to discuss a problem in a group and find a solution.

The participants were taken to Silkewadi Village, which has a biogas plant and no one in this village defecates in open because there are toilets in every house of the village. The participants also visited the Goshala of the Kaneri Math and were mesmerized by the beauty and the vastness of the place. The Goshala is special because there are almost 50 indigenous breeds of cow. The participants also visited the Siddhagiri Museum. This visit was important because it helped the participants to learn about their culture and tradition and what they can learn from our ancestors.



Participants at the programme perform Yoga during the ‘yuvachetna shibir’.

Shri Amit Hukerikar (Media Management Consultant) spoke to the participants about the role of media in a volunteer’s life and how judicious use of social media can help a volunteer in doing constructive work which will be helpful for the nation.

The session concluded with Shree Sameer Kanabargi (MD Phoenix Products), who spoke to the participants on how to set goals and also shared some techniques on the goal setting.

- **WARDHA**

Workshop on Youth Volunteerism for Constructive Work

A three-day workshop on how young people could volunteer for constructive work was organized by the Samiti in association with the Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi Vishwavidyalaya from February 27-29, 2016. About 100 students from different departments and villagers from five nearby villages took part in this workshop.

While the effort was to orient the students on Gandhian Constructive work, through the interaction of the students and villagers, it is aimed to initiate constructive work in these villages. There were discussions on *Gandhian Gram Swaraj*, *Gandhian Concept of Inclusive Volunteerism* and the need to motivate young people to work for Babu's 'India of my Dreams'.

Senior resource persons including Prof Manoj Kumar, Director, Mahatma Gandhi Fuji Guruji Centre for Social Work; Dr Kripa Shankar Chaubey, Department of Journalism, Wardha; Dr P B Kale, Director, Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Rural Industries, Wardha, Shri Basant, former advisor, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti; Dr Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti spoke on how the students could develop different volunteer initiatives in the villages and contribute to constructive work.

On the third day of the programme, an exposure visit was organized for the participants in different Gandhian institutions including Sevagram. Interactions were organized with the workers and officials in these organizations.

- **WEST BENGAL**

Four-day residential Youth Camp on "Gandhi Tomorrow" at Daspur

A four-day residential Youth Camp on "Gandhi Tomorrow" was organised by the Samiti in association with Gandhi Mission Trust, at Daspur, West Medinipur, West Bengal from January 28-31, 2016. About 50-60 college students from the region took part at the youth camp. The programme

was inaugurated by Prof. Prashanto and the Chief Guest was Shri Bimal Pal, senior Sarvodaya Samaj worker. Shri Narayan Bhattacharjee, Secretary was also present on the occasion.

Among the other distinguished speakers, Prof. Pranesh Bannerjee spoke on Mahatma Gandhi's Basic Education, Nai Talim and today's education system. Prof. Gopal Gosh, eminent Gandhian also spoke on the occasion and stressed upon the relevance of Gandhian values for rural reconstruction and nation building.

In his address to the youth, Shri Narayan Bhattacharjee said that Mahatma Gandhi is alive in every deliberation or negotiation for disarmament and peace. Wherever war and violence is abhorred and questioned, Mahatma Gandhi is present. He lived 29 months into the nuclear age and asserted that unless the world adopts non-violence, it would doom mankind. His inspiration aided the great peace marches and demonstrations of our time, east and west. He urged the youth to me peace marchers and resolve conflict.

The main focus of discussions was: *Global Warming, Women Empowerment and Youth and Gandhi Tomorrow*.

Conclave of Young Doctors in AIIMS

The conclave for young doctors was launched on February 7, 2016 with *AIIMS 5k Run for Unity* to raise awareness against violence face by doctors with the slogan "STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST DOCTORS". The run was flagged off by the Director of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Dr. M.C. Misra along with a host of other dignitaries. The run saw the participation from doctors all over Delhi and North India, from both private and Government hospitals completing the daunting 5 kms course.

The winners were felicitated by the Director. Winners from different categories like residents, faculty members and senior citizens were awarded trophies and all participants who completed the run were awarded medals.

The *Run for Unity* was followed in the evening with an interactive session: "*Think beyond the Clinics*" by Dr. Jagdish Chaturvedi on biotech innovations and entrepreneurship. The residents and faculty members at AIIMS were thrilled to hear

of his experiences as a serial biotech entrepreneur and of his work as Director at InnAccel, a Bengaluru based Medtech accelerator. The talk was followed by a question-answer session with active participation by the attendees.



AIIMS doctors & staff participate in 'Run for Unity', led by Dr. Prasum Chatterjee to rebuild the lost patient-doctor relationship trust.

The participants at both the events praised the initiative, especially the themes discussed as both pertinent and valuable given the current scenario of healthcare in the country. The organizers and the sponsors were praised by the participants.

Youth Conclave on "Leadership Development – A Gandhian Perspective"

A vast population of the young generation is on a journey towards change. The change is not just in terms of education, social, economic or political development, but development in every other spheres that correlate to the overall human personality and rebuilding a strong future that promotes a just and equitable society. Today we can witness that a vast majority of the young generation gives sanctity and respect to those people who

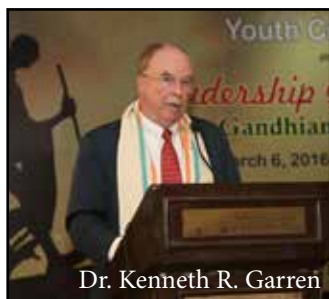
dedicated their life towards the services of society and draw inspiration from them. Our effort has been also been to inculcate that indomitable spirit within individuals and upheld their zeal and fiery spirit in process of nation-building.



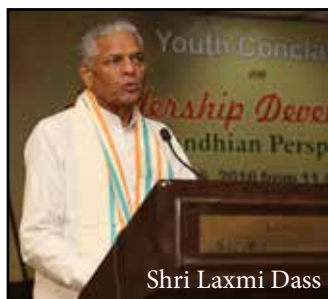
From L to R: Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Secretary Gandhi Samadhi, Rajghat Shri Rajneesh Kumar and Director NYKS Delhi Zone, Shri Apoorva Shinde at the inauguration of the "Youth Conclave" as participants look on.

In view of this, the Samiti in association with Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan Delhi Zone organised a Youth conclave on "*Leadership Development – A Gandhian Perspective*" in Gandhi Darshan on March 6, 2016 for enhancing the qualities of the youth towards leadership development. Almost 300 participants took part in the programme.

Eminent leadership development expert, Dr. Kenneth R. Garren, who is the President of the Lynchburg College, USA, delivered the keynote address. In his address, Dr. Garren outlined the many facets and qualities of a leader. He said that while a leader has to handle adversities, he/she also has to live with these basic principles of developing a work culture, a sound character, high sense of morality and sacrifice.



Dr. Kenneth R. Garren



Shri Laxmi Dass



Prof. Anand Kumar



Shri Basant

While pointing out that diversity of experiences gives strength, he pointed that learning from the mistakes makes one persistent. “Anyone who wants to be a leader, must possess courage, be able to motivate others, have high ambition, energetic and the tenacity to do things”, he said. He attributed that strong communication skills are essential for becoming a good leader.

Most importantly Dr. Garren said that passion and strong conviction are important traits of a leader.

In his address, Shri Laxmi Dass, Secretary, Harijan Sevak Sangh pointed that the trend today is that everybody wants to become a leader and that people think it is easy to become one. Referring to the Gandhian leadership qualities, he said that Mahatma Gandhi led by his own example for truth and non-violence. “A leader has to first develop and then desire”, he said.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Laxmi Dass pointed out that Mahatma Gandhi surrendered everything to God after doing his duty, but also never rested till the work saw its fruition. He also spoke at length about the great communication skills of Mahatma Gandhi that could touch the hearts of millions of people. He said that even though Gandhiji spoke about multi-religion, he nevertheless read the Bhagawat Gita, which deals greatly on the principle of karmayogi and sacrifice.

Commenting that the world has moved ahead from Gandhiji’s times, Shri Laxmi Dass what Gandhiji taught was that a leader should develop an emotional connection with his/he opponents too. He told the participants that *Gandhi Vichar* (Gandhian thought) makes leaders of various types – social, political and leader of the masses.

Shri Basant Singh of Karigar Panchayat and Unnat Bharat Abhiyaan said that there needs to be continuous dialogues with the youth. He called upon the youth to develop leadership qualities and not misuse such qualities – *netagiri nahi, netretwa*

ki sadhana honi chahiye, he said.

Prof. Anand Kumar, who was the guest of honour on the occasion, dwelt on the same concept and said that as a child Mahatma Gandhi wasn’t a genius, but from failures, Mahatma Gandhi went to success. He said that the trend today and since time immemorial has been with the parents that what they couldn’t become, they would want – and often force – their children to become. Resting his hope upon the youth of today, he hoped that the sense of nationalism must not elude the youth. He reiterated that *tyag* (sacrifice), *charitra nirman* (character building) are the virtues of an able leader.

Shri Rajnish Kumar, Secretary, Gandhi Samadhi, Rajghat, pointed that leaders cannot be created, but leadership qualities can be imbibed and nurtured. He asked the youth to read more about the life’s philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi.

Earlier GSDS Director Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan in his welcome address reiterated the philosophy of leaders and visionaries which have shaped modern-day world because they thought for the welfare of humankind which is the basic traits of a good leader.

An interactive session with the participants was also conducted on the occasion. Students from the NYKS Delhi Zone – New Delhi, South, North (Alipur), East, North East (Sultanpuri), Central, South West, West and North West under the guidance and supervision of their Director Shri Apurva Shinde were felicitated on the occasion.

Discussion on Mahatma Gandhi’s philosophy of Education and youth volunteerism for constructive work

About 200 prospective teachers pursuing Bachelor of Education (BEd) from Maharishi Valmiki College of Education, University of Delhi took part in an interactive session in Gandhi Darshan from March 15-17, 2016. The interactive session was coordinated by Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme



Students share their view point.

Officer on March 15, by Smt. Geeta Shukla, Research Officer; Smt. Shashwati Jhalani, Librarian and Mr. Rajdeep Pathak, Programme Executive also spoke on the occasion. Students pursuing various disciplines took part.

The three-day interactive session was organized with four different groups having about 40 teachers in each group, each day of young prospective teachers pursuing BEd (Bachelor of Education). The discussions focused on Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy on education and how teachers could facilitate in providing proper guidance to their students. Experience sharing sessions formed part of the discussions during the three-day.

Conclave of Young Professionals to Volunteer for Constructive Work

The Samiti in collaboration with Pragma Sansthan, organised a *Conclave of Young Professionals to Volunteer for Constructive Work* on March 19-20, 2016 in Gandhi Darshan. As part of the programme, a workshop was conducted by senior journalists and academicians for budding journalists to train them in ethics in communication as



Shri Jawaharlal Kaul and Shri Ram Dhiraj lights the inaugural lamp at the conclave.



Invocatory performance by GSDD "Srijan" musical choir in progress.

propounded and practised by Mahatma Gandhi. The aim of the workshop was to promote volunteerism amongst young professionals and motivate them to promote constructive work for nation building. The workshop also provided a platform for budding journalists to share their experiences and creativity. About 200 participants mostly students from different media institutions of Delhi and NCR such as the Jamia Millia Islamia, Indian Institute of Mass Communication, Indraprastha University, SGT University, Gurgaon, Banaras Hindu University, Makhnallal Chaturvedi Institute of Communication took part in the conclave.



Shri Govindacharya addresses the gathering of 200 students at the conclave as guests on dais are in rapt attention.

The workshop commenced with the introductory address by the media stalwarts like Shri Govindacharya, Shri Jawaharlal Kaul. They deliberated on the theme "**Gandhi-the Editor**". Shri Govindacharya began his address with the remark that when the contemporary media scenario is affected with the overriding role of market forces and when the media is trying to project the celebrities and models as the icons of modern society, it would



Discussions and deliberations by resource persons formed an integral part of the two-day workshop. Seen in the pix above are Shri Rakesh Singh (L) addressing the gathering and (R) participants during the interactive session in Gandhi Darshan.

be worthwhile to visit Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy and his contribution as a journalist.

He said, "Gandhiji looked upon journalism as a means to serve people. He published no advertisement at the same time he did not want his newspapers to run at a loss. He had gained considerable experience in South Africa where he had taken over in 1904 the editorship of the *Indian Opinion* and published it in English, Tamil and Gujarati. *Young India* and *Harijan* became powerful vehicles for his views on all subjects".

Shri Jawaharlal Kaul delved into the changing facets of contemporary journalism. He lamented that the economics of present day newspapers is based on market. Market forces would decide about the stories to be included in daily newspaper, he remarked with regret.

The second session dealt with the issues of Gandhian Journalism and Role of Youth Volunteers. The key speakers were Shri N. K. Singh and Shri Ram Bahadur Rai.

Shri N. K. Singh spoke on the challenges confronting the present day young journalists. "The pressure of work from gathering, news and developing contacts is far greater than what the journalists of yesteryears had experienced", he said. He also spoke on the technological changes that have revolutionized news reporting for the print and electronic media and its influence on the people." He also spoke about the Official Secrets Act which obstructs journalists from sourcing secret documents for investigation work. "Despite

all obstructions and hinderances, there is a need for high quantity and high quality of investigation reporting.

Padmashree Shri Ram Bahadur Rai, a veteran Gandhian and journalist and Chancellor of SGT University spoke on the Gandhian vision of journalism. He said that apart from being a national leader and social reformer, Mahatma Gandhi was a great communicator, more than any one else. He recognized that communication is/was the most effective tool to shape opinion and mobilize popular support. He was successful because he had a latent skill in communication that surfaced in South Africa where he had gone initially to set up a practice as a lawyer. The practice of communication started by him in South Africa gave him the clue to rally millions of his countrymen when he returned to India.

Speaking on *Satyagraha and Media*, Shri Arvind Mohan, an accomplished journalist spoke on the role of Gandhi as communication strategist and also highlighted about his research on the Champaran Satyagraha and Mahatma Gandhi's remarkable ability to communicate with the masses in Champaran and that too in a short span of time. Practically, no newspaper was published in and around Champaran in the days. He discussed at length as to how Gandhiji was able to disseminate his message among the different ranks of Champaran peasantry, in almost 52 villages, in the absence of any established newspaper. He enumerated reasons for this – man to man contact, steadfast on truth and sincerity of purpose.

The valedictory address was given by renowned journalist Shri Awadesh Kumar who said that the society finds its echo in media presentations. Society, as well as media, does not live on separate islands. They are bound to touch by early other's perceptions.

• UTTAR PRADESH

Two-day Bal Mela-cum-Dialogue amongst youth on Gandhian Ideology



(Above and Below): Children are seen participating in different activities during the programme in Ghazipur, U.P.

The Samiti in association with Grameen Vikas and Siksha Sanstha, Gazipur, Uttar Pradesh organized a two-day *Bal Mela-cum-dialogue amongst youth on Gandhian Ideology* from March 6-7, 2016. The programme was organized in the interior area at Sarvodaya Inter-college Sayar, Ghazipur. On March 6, 2016, about 250 children took part in the painting competition for the *Dandi March Rolling Trophy* and also the *Vandemataram Rolling Trophy* musical competitions. **The theme of the Dandi March Rolling Trophy was Need Vs Greed; and that of the Vandemataram Rolling Trophy was Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao.** A play on the life of Mahatma Gandhi was staged on the occasion.

On March 7, about 150 youth took part in the discussion on *Gandhian Concept of Scientific Development* and *Hind Swaraj*. The Chief Guest on the occasion was U.P. Tourism Minister Shri Om Prakash Singh. Coordinator of Sarva Seva Sangh, Shri Arvind Anjum who is also the member of U.P Jal Biradari and Shri Ram Dhiraj were present on the occasion, along with Gandhians Shri Mahendra Nath Gupta and Shri Satyanarayan.

Youth Volunteers for Constructive Work Workshop organized

A workshop for *Youth Volunteers for Constructive Work* was organized on March 16-17, 2016 at Sewapuri, Varanasi in association with Uttar Pradesh Gandhi Smarak Nidhi that saw the participation of over 200 youth and students from the area. Senior Gandhian, Shri Ramchandra



(Above and Below): Senior Gandhian such as Shri Ram Chandra Rahiji join others in the programme attended by youth participants.

Rahi, President of Gandhi Smarak Nidhi; Shri Ram Prakash Dwivedi, Principal Kashi Vidyapeeth; Shri Amarnath, Ex Secretary, UP Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, Shri Lal Bahadur Rai, Secretary UP Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, Shri Santosh Singh, Manager, Kasturba Mahila Vidyapeeth Intermediate College was present on the occasion and interacted with the 200 youth participants.

The programme began in the early hours of the morning with representatives from various centres of the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi and youth joining hands in a sanitation campaign. The inaugural programme saw discussions on Gandhiji's constructive programme, role of youth into volunteering and education for all. Recitation of poetry by Shri Parasnath Misra, Principal Kalila Dham Indore College was another highlight of the programme. The Samiti was represented by Shri Manoj Kumar.

- **RANCHI, JHARKHAND**

Seminar on “Gandhi, Youth Volunteerism and Constructive Work” at:

- Nirmala College, Ranchi (March 14-15, 2016)**
- St. Xavier's College, Ranchi (March 17-18, 2016)**

A two-day seminar on “Gandhi, Youth Volunteerism and Constructive Work” were organised for college youth, in two colleges namely Nirmala College, Ranchi and St. Xavier's College, Ranchi by *Pratigya*, Jharkhand in collaboration with Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti on March 14-15 and March 17-17 respectively. The seminar aimed at instilling the values of 'social volunteering'



From L to R: Shri Ashok Bhagat, Dr. Shahid Akhtar, Shri Ajay Kumar and Sister Dr. Jyoti Kispotta at the inauguration of the seminar.

and 'Gandhism' among the college youth, since it is not a part of normal discourse of our present education system. While, 90 students including faculty members took part in the seminar at Nirmala College, there were about 110 participants including faculties. Ten resource persons conducted sessions on various themes in the two days seminar.

The seminar was an initiative to make inroad among college youth and guide as well as inspire them to devote certain time of theirs in an effort to bring changes in the lives of most disadvantaged and backward section of the society. This seminar aimed at creating a platform for college going youth for their learning about the hard realities of the society and vast disadvantaged section of the society. This endeavour was also targeted towards the need of facilitating them to become direct agents of change at the grassroots.

Moreover, at the time of paramount dominance of violence both at global and regional level in the form of terrorism and internal insurgency like Maoism and even increasing incidences of violence in the surroundings, it is of utmost important to take before youth the ideas and philosophy of truth, nonviolence and service to mankind enshrined by Mahatma Gandhi in more pragmatic way.

Day two began with a session on “Gandhi's concept of Social Work”, which was conducted by Dr Rashmi Mala, HOD, Department of Political Science, Nirmala College. She explained in details the Gandhian concept of social work and service to humanity. She quoted various instances from Gandhiji's life, which can be termed as milestones in the approach of social work. She outlined the teachings of Gandhi in very vivid manner with special mention of his role as social reformer and a unit of secular unity.



Group exercises formed an integral part of the seminar where the participants actively took part.



Participants with their mentors pose for a photo shoot with their certificates.

The following four themes pertaining to Gandhian philosophy, volunteerism and leadership were discussed during the seminar at Nirmala College:

- a) Gandhian Philosophy and volunteerism
- b) Youth, studies and community work – a pragmatic approach
- c) Gandhigiri – a relevant modern approach for change in society
- d) Gandhian concept of constructive work and leadership.

The speakers at the seminar included: Padmashree Sri Ashok Bhagat, eminent social worker and founder of Vikas Bharati, Bishunpur, Jharkhand; Dr Shahid Aktar, Professor, Ranchi College and ex-Chairperson, State Minority Commission; Principal of Nirmala College, Sister Dr Jyoti Kispotta, Sri Ajay Kumar, President of Pratigya.

Group exercises formed part of the seminar at both the institutions. A session on Volunteerism and sharing of experience was conducted by Mr. Chandan Singh, Programs Head, Pratigya.

The major questions / themes discussed during the session were:

- What is volunteerism?
- Good experiences of volunteerism
- Bad experiences of volunteerism
- Social projects/social issues/ events/ any other programme, you have volunteered so far
- Social projects/social issues/ events/ any other programme, you would like to volunteer
- Incentives of volunteerism
- Challenges of volunteerism

At St. Xaviers College, the inaugural session was graced by Prof AA Khan, Ex Vice Chancellor of Ranchi University, Mr Ajay Nath Shahdeo, Ex Deputy Mayor , Ranchi , Mr RP Singh , Special Secretary , Department of Youth Affairs, Tourism and Culture and Mr Ajay Kumar, President , Pratigya. Here too group activity formed part of the deliberations and orientation programme at the workshop.

Two sessions which saw the largest number of participation and interest were: “Pragmatic Approach to Volunteerism – Way forward” and “Gandhian Philosophy and Volunteerism”.

The students shared that they got to know so many aspects on the life and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi for the first time. Many students shared that their idea of volunteerism completely got changed and about two third of them expressed their willingness to volunteer with *Pratigya* and similar organizations. They also demanded more seminars like this in near future. One girl student shared that she learnt in two days that the heaviest jewelry in one’s life is his / her contribution in others’ life, especially the underprivileged. She told that she realized that the hand which rises to support a deprived person is more sacred than the hand that rises for prayers”.

• **LOHARDAGA, RANCHI**

Workshop on “Youth Orientation for Constructive Work and Peace Building”

The Samiti is collaboration with the Vanvasi Kalyan Kendra (Ashram), Ranchi conducted a two-day workshop ***on “Youth Orientation for Constructive Work and Peace Building” in the Adivasi Areas*** from March 28-29, 2016 under the *Unnat Bharat Abhiyan*. The workshop was inaugurated by the renowned neurologist of Ranchi, Dr. H. P. Narayan, the Regional President of Vanvasi Kalyan Kendra Shri Kripa Prasad Singh, Vice-President of the all India Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram. Prof. Rijhu Kachhap, Prof. Umakant Lal and advocate Niraj Nalin also took part in the programme.

Various officials of the Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram and about 138 youth from the tribal villages of the region and about twenty experienced workers (resource persons) in various fields attended the workshop. Detailed discussions were held in the camp regarding the use of non-violent methods of

development and for peace building in the naxal affected districts of Lohardaga, Latehar, Chatra, Gurah, Jashpur, Raigarh in Chhattisgarh and Sundargarh and Jharsuguda in Odisha.



Shri Ganesh (Volunteer GSDS) conducts a session on volunteerism during the workshop at Lohardaga.



(Above and Below): Shri Kripa Prasad Singh (extreme right) of Vanvasi Kalyan Kendra shares his perspective at the workshop, as participants keenly listens.

The State Minister for Rural Development, Sh. Sudarshan Bhagat praised the youth workshop and laid stress on the importance of such activities in the Naxal affected regions. He also appreciated the role of GSDS in the peaceful constructive work and was pleased with the large number of youth participation in the workshop.

Sh. Vijay Narayan Pandey, former Chairman of Bihar Electricity Board explained the working of alternative energy sources and Sh. Ashok Chauhan engineer presented the various ways of water cleaning and its uses. Sh. Navneet Kumar Singh gave his insight into the Pico Hydel projects and the benefits of Solar Energy and Biogas.

The Village Development Head, Sh. Raghav Rana shed light on SHG (self help groups), women

development programmes and water resource management in the rural areas. Sh. Hirendra Sinha, the regional organisation Secretary and Sh. Devabrata Pahun, President of Shri Hari Vanvasi Samiti discussed the voluntary efforts in the fields of constructive organisational and democratic systems.

Sh. Kripa Prasad Singh explained the aims and objectives of the workshop and proposed the vote of thanks to GSDS for organisation. Er. Mahesh Bhukkute and Er. V N Pandey discussed on methods of power development in the region.

The Samiti distributed Gandhian Literature to all the participants of the workshop. Sh. Ganesh of GSDS explained the Gandhian concepts to them. Different sessions had discussions and presentations on organic farming, water resource management, alternative energy sources, village industries etc.

• **ONGOLE, ANDHRA PRADESH**

Workshop on “Youth Volunteerism for Constructive Work – A Gandhian Philosophy”

A seven-day national level workshop on “Youth Volunteerism for Constructive Work was jointly organized by the Samiti in association with PACE Institute of Technology and Sciences, Ongole, Prakasam District of Andhra Pradesh from March 15-21, 2016. During these seven days, several resource persons shared their views and experiences with the participants.

The inauguration of the workshop started with lighting of the lamp by Dr. Akondi



1. Dr. Akondi Viswanadham inaugurates the workshop with the lighting of the lamp.
2. Felicitation of senior Gandhian scholars was another highlight of the programme.
3. A student felicitates Dr. M Sriganesh during the workshop.
4. Shri Gulshan Gupta, Coordinator North East Programmes, GSDS, interacts with the participants during the workshop.

Dr. Ahmed Hussein, Deputy Collector mainly highlighting the promotional activities of Gandhian philosophical thoughts.

The others who spoke on the occasion were Dr. Ahmed Hussein, Mr. Gulshan Gupta (GSDS) who highlighted the Gandhian model of youth participation in constructive work.

In the valedictory session, Dr. Sunkara Sai Baba (Retd) Assistant Superintendent of Police and Mr. Goli Nageswara Rao, Senior Advocate addressed the gathering.

Shri Umesh Chandra Gaur, Chairman Confederation of Community Based Organisations (CCBOS), raised many vital issues of youth voluntary work.

The workshop concluded with the proposal that every participant of the programme has to conduct the voluntary activities for the benefit of the society.

Viswanadham of C.S.R. Sarma College, Ongole along with other dignitaries. The inaugural speech was delivered by Dr. Akondi Viswanadham, who spoke about the Gandhian concept of growth and development.

Dr. Krishna Banana, Professor of Acharya Nagarjuna University Guntur addressed the participants regarding the philosophical thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi, and the application of these principles for youth who are committed for social/ voluntary work and asked the youth for working in the community on Swachh Bharat, health, rural upliftment, providing free education facilities, etc.



Programmes for Women

Programme as part of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Abhiyan

The Samiti hosted a dialogue with 150 girls travelling throughout Haryana who are on a mission to raise awareness on *Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao* as part of the campaign launched by the Government of India towards the education and protection of the girl child. The programme was organised in Gandhi Darshan on January 14, 2016.



Participants on a mission to raise awareness on “Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao” in Gandhi Darshan during the programme.

Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways and Shipping, who was the chief guest on the occasion, spoke to the students on their noble initiative. He said that the entire nation must rise towards protecting and respecting the girl child. The students came under the banner of the *India Media Centre*. The students also paid homage at the Mahatma Gandhi Samadhi at Rajghat.

Workshop on Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao

A workshop was organized on the theme of *Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao* by the Samiti in collaboration with Tripura Central University and Bharat Vikas Parishad in the Keprampara Village of Tripura on January 15-16, 2016. In the two-

day workshop, the villagers took part with all their enthusiasm. About 200 villagers, especially women from the community participated in the workshop. A special *rangoli* competition was organized in which 11 women took part. Faculty members from the University, local Panchayat members, women activists, and people from the community took part in the competition.

On the second day, which was celebrated as *Makar Sankranti*, a special traditional sweet making competition was organized in which 29 women took part. A conglomeration of about 300 villagers was a special attraction of the programme. Prizes were also distributed.

Kasturba Gandhi remembered on her 72nd Nirvan Diwas

Over 350 people, comprising children drawn from different institutions of Delhi and NCR, women's organizations, social activists, and members from the Gandhian fraternity took part in the 72nd Nirvan Divas of Kasturba Gandhi in Gandhi Smriti, 5 Tees January Marg by offering rich tributes to Kasturba Gandhi, who was lovingly called 'Ba'.



Inter-faith prayer meet in progress as a tribute to Ba.



In the Pix: Ba's 72nd Nirvan Diwas was marked with tributes by children from different institutions, voluntary organisations with songs on women empowerment, balled on stree shakti.

An all religious prayer meet was organized as part of the commemorative programme. Leaders from different religious faiths offered prayers as a mark of respect to Kasturba Gandhi.

This was followed by a musical tribute to Ba that began with a song of harmony titled *Vasudaiva Kutumbhakam – Lead us from Darkness to Light* led by children from the Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan.

A balled on *Stree Shakti* symbolising the eternal spirit of women in different forms/ incarnations was another highlight of the commemorative programme. Set in the traditional Rabintra Dance form of Shantiniketan, along with narratives, the children displayed a great form of energy and synergy through their performance.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Laxmi Dass, Secretary of Harijan Sevak Sangh, reiterated the contribution of Kasturba Gandhi during the freedom struggle. Calling Ba, a leader ahead of her time, he said that Kasturbai as she was called, had her differences with her husband Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. And yet, she stood by him throughout his life.

While lamenting the nature of violence on women and girl child, he strongly advocated that if

the nation has to prosper, the girl child must not only be allowed to be born, but also provided education for her overall development. He said that respect to women must be the core foundation of any society for it to thrive.

Shri Dass also laid stress on the Sarva Dharma Sambhava (unity of all religions) to confront the social evils that are responsible for the decay and degeneration of values from the society. While saying that no religion promotes violence, he called upon the religious leaders to work towards nation-building.

Training of young women in volunteerism for constructive work

As part of its initiative to promote volunteerism amongst young people across the country, the Samiti organized a two-day training programme for young women in Khaskhamar, Howrah, West Bengal on February 18-19, 2016. The programme was organized in association with the *Nari O Shishu Kalyan Kendra*. More than 100 young women from minority institutions of Howrah took part in this training programme.

The chief guest in the inaugural session, Shri Basant, former advisor, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti explained in details the Gandhian constructive programme and how today's youth could be motivated to take to constructive work. He said constructive work played an important role in the Gandhian strategy and it focussed that the poor must get food and cloths.

Bapu's Constructive Programme is geared towards village reconstruction. The GSDS Programme Officer, Dr Vedabhyas Kundu conducted a workshop on how to be an effective volunteer, importance of communication and how to volunteer for issues in the community.



Women participants at the workshop in West Bengal.

The participants were divided into the following groups to chalk out a plan of action: Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, conservation of the environment and livelihood for local women.

On the second day, senior Gandhians, Narayan Bhai and Shri Chandan Pal discussed different dimensions of Gandhian Constructive work.

Conclave of Elected Women Representatives of Panchayats for Economic and Inclusive Growth

The Samiti in association with the State Institute of Rural Development (Grameen Vikas Bhivag) Govt. of Jharkhand organized a two-day *Conclave of Women Panchayat Representatives for Inclusive Growth* Panchayati Raj, Hehal Ranchi on February 22-23, 2016 as a tribute to Kasturba Gandhi's 72nd Nirvan Diwas. The key-note address was delivered by Sh. N.N. Sinha, Principal Secretary, Department of Rural Development. Among others who were present on the occasion were Dr. Pravin Shankar, Secretary, Panchayat Raj; Sh. Shiwendra Singh, Director PRI; Prof. Hareshwar Dayal; Sh. Kumar Premchand, WASH Specialist UNICEF; Sh. Gurjeet Singh, NIRD; Dr. Khayati Tiwari, Consultant UNICEF; Sh. Khudiram Mahto, Kudumshree; Sh. Ajit Kumar Singh, Lecturer CTI and Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS.

The two days conclave for EWRs focused on:

1. Enhancing information on women economic and social development indicators
2. Information of role of EWRs in addressing issue of Malnutrition, hygiene and sanitation
3. Role of EWRs in execution of SBM and NRLM programs of GOI
4. Addressing major bottlenecks and challenges as EWRs
5. Gandhian Concept of Swaraj and Panchayati Raj System



In his address, Shri N N Sinha, recalled the contribution of Mahatama Gandhi towards the whole concept of *Local Self Governance*: “SWARAJ”. Sh. Sinha also shared the information about the initiatives taken by state



(Inset): A participant shares her view point at the conclave, as distinguished guests on the dais are all ears.

government in devolving 3Fs to the panchayats for effective functioning. He emphasized the role of PRIs in changing the development scenario of the rural Jharkhand. The role of women in development of Panchayats is very vital as maximum issues relate to women and child in the state. He said once the EWRs start taking initiatives in right directions, results will be seen. He ensured the participants for all support from the department and requested to participate and gain information from all sessions.

Earlier in his welcome address, Sh. Shiwendra Singh congratulated the elected representatives for winning the elections. He focused on the objective and expected outcome of the workshop. He urged the participants to



Participants at the workshop rise for the National Anthem.

make the training program more interactive and also take required initiatives once they reach their Panchayats.

The various thematic sessions included:

1. **Economic Empowerment of Women through PRIs** by Prof. Harsh Dayal
2. **Towards Swachch Bharat Mission** by Kumar Premchand (*Wash Specialist UNICEF*);
3. **Challenges faced by EWRs in their Panchayats** by Sh. Gurjeet Singh, NIRD;
4. **Role of Elected Women Representatives in combating Malnutrition** by Dr. Khayati Tiwari, Consultant UNICEF;
5. **Women SHG and PRIs: possibilities of collaboration and convergence** by Sh. Khudiram Mahto, Kudumshree;
6. **Gandhian Concept of Swaraj and PRIs** by Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS.

Global Inter-faith Peace Prayer to mark the International Women's Day

The Guild of Services, the War Widows Association and Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti jointly organized a *Global Inter-faith Peace Prayer* on March 8, 2016, to mark the International Women's Day. The programme was organized in Gandhi Smriti. While holding the belief of 'Unity in Diversity', the *Sarvadharmha Peace Prayer* saw the representation of different religions, cultures and ethnicity that exists in our country.



Prayer for peace .



(Above): Mr. Rajiv Chandran, Officer In-Charge UNIC for India and Bhutan addresses the gathering, as participants at the 'Prayer for Peace' (below) keenly listens.

Peace Prayers by various religious representatives from different religions marked the ceremony.

Mr. Rajeev Chandran, U.N. Representative read out message of U.N. Secretary General, H.E. Mr. Ban Ki Moon on the occasion. In his message H.E. Ban Ki Moon said, "Let us devote solid funding, courageous advocacy and unbending political will to achieving gender equality around the world. There is no greater investment in our common future. Now the time has come that we invest in our women, girl child and marginalized".

Eminent scholar, Dr. Syeda Hameed, while speaking on the occasion, emphasized beautifully the concept of peace and harmony from the passages of Quran. She said that Islam enjoins equal status for men and women. Classical singer, Ms. Kumud Diwan rendered bhajans of Tuisidas on the occasion. Sufi song was sung melodiously by the renowned Sufi singer Ms. Deepmala Mohan. The rendition by Ms. Rene Singh through her song: "purab se suraj ugha, faila ujiyara" and "Allah tere naam, Ishwar tero naam" marked one of the special features of the programme that also paid a befitting tribute to the eternal and undying spirit of the mother as a symbol of women empowerment.

Among others who were present on the occasion included Mr. Dastur Bagli, Ms. Manjusha Ranjan and Dr. A K Merchant. Women and social workers from several organizations also took part in the programme.

Campaign on "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao"

The Campaign - "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" was organized by Gandhi Smriti & Darshan Samiti in association with Beti & Shiksha Foundation on March 12, 2016 at Gandhi Darshan as a tribute to the 86th anniversary of the historic *Salt Satyagraha*.



The Campaign was inaugurated by Dr. Sudhanshu Mittal, Mr. Sushen Jhingan, Mr. Mallikarjuna lytha (Managing Director, F-Tec Skill



(Inset): A social entrepreneur shares her view point to a packed audience during the 'Campaign on Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' in Gandhi Darshan.

Development & Co-Founder, Believe India, F-TEC Skill Development (Foresight Edutech (P) Ltd), Mrs. Geeta Shukla (Research Officer - GSDS), Mrs. Renu Sharma (President of Beti & Shiksha Foundation).

During the programme, women achievers from different fields were honored with *Be The Change – Stree Udhyaami Award 2016*. The women represented states like Manipur, Chattisgarh, Telengana, Odhisha, Gujarat, Chennai, New Delhi and even USA. Among those who are recognised included: Ms Binalakshmi Nepram, Ms. Lalita Nijhawan, Ms. Lalita Nijhawan, Gujarat, Dr. Neeru Kapoor, Dr. Sushi Singh, Ms. Usha Mahalwal, Mrs. Rajni Goel, Mrs. Charanjeet Kaur Ghai, Ms. Preeti Lomba, Ms. Sangeeta Saroha, Ms. Surbhi, Paul, Dr. Nidhi Khera, Ms. Swati Sharma, Ms. Nahid Quraishy, Ms. Sameena, Ms. Filza Moonis, Ms.

Leher Sethi, Dr. Deepali Bharadwaj, Ms. Karuna Paduri, Ms. Pavitara Chalam, Prof. Rama Nair, Ms. Devyanshi Joshi, Ms. Pragya Parande and Dr. Anju Gupta.



(All Smiles): “Stree Udhya Award 2016” being presented by the distinguished guests to women achievers.

The issues on which the speakers deliberated on the occasion were female foeticide, honour killing, infanticide, education for women, social and economic security, jobs, etc.

Seminar on Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao organized

The Samiti in association with *Nari Manch* organized a day-long workshop-cum-seminar on Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao at Constitution Club, Rafi Marg, New Delhi on March 30, 2016.



1. Director GSDS addresses the gathering at the seminar on ‘Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao’ in Constitution Club.



2,3 & 4. Participants at the seminar organised by GSDS and Nari Manch share their experiences.



The main theme of the seminar focused on the vision of Shri Narendra Modi, the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India to empower women in every sphere of life. About 175 people took part in the programme. Members from the Gulabi Gang (an extraordinary women’s movement formed in 2006 by Sampat Pal Devi in the Banda District of Uttar Pradesh in Northern India), advocates, people from the media, social workers, academicians, students from different institutions, women activists took part in the programme.

The members present at the inaugural session included: Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan; Capt. Vikas Gupta, Dr. Urvashi Makkar, Ms. Poonam Shukla, Shri G B Mathe; Ms. Shameena Rais, the convenor, Shri Umesh Chandra Gaur, Smt. Sadhana Singh Gaur ‘Naini’, Chairperson Nari Manch, Shri. Rajesh Goyal, Executive Chairman CCBOS & IIP Foundation & Mr. G. B. Mathur Director of Escort Skill Development, Faridabad, Ms. Anita Singh, Advocate, Shri. Ashutosh Singh, National Convener, Swasth Bharat Abhiyan, Mr. Rais Khan Pathan, Member, Central Waqf Council, Ministry of Minority Affairs and State President, CCBOS, Gujarat.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan while paying tributes to ‘Ba’ (Kasturba Gandhi) lamented over the fact that a country where women are worshipped, has now to fight for saving the women. Education and life are the two wheels of the society. He assured to take this programme to different states.

During the first session, Smt. Sadhana Singh Gaur and Member Vigilance and Monitoring Committee, Chhatisgarh spoke on the equal rights for women and highlighted the discrimination against women on religions, sex and cultural grounds. She also mentioned certain remedial action to counteract such discriminations.

The second session of the seminar was presided over by Shri. Umesh Chandra Gaur, Chairman, CCBOS of India. He raised many vital issues concerning women and strongly backed 33% reservation for women.

The issues that were mainly highlighted during the seminar included: female foeticide, infanticide, malnutrition, health and hygiene, early marriage & complications of child birth, special protection for minority women with legal assistance, domestic violence, women reservation, dowry evil, and skill development and vocational education for women, women entrepreneurship.

The seminar concluded with the passing of a proposal to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India that included 33% reservation for women in the Parliament, State Legislative Assemblies and Govt. jobs; free healthcare and legal aid for women; unique identity cards for widows & differently-abled women, special pensions for old women which can be disbursed at their door step and free hostel for them in their districts; stringent punishments for those who commit atrocities on women and debarring them from Govt. jobs and other privileges.

Mahila Chetna Shivir raises concern on Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

The Samiti in collaboration with Acharya Kakasaheb Kalelkar Lok Seva Kendra, Badgaon, Boondi, Rajasthan, organised a two-day seminar on the theme *Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao* as part of the "Mahila Chetna Shivir" on March 7-8, 2016. The camp discussed this significant concern through workshops, dialogues and cultural programmes, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of Rajasthan.

The two day camp was inaugurated on March 7 by the former district head of Boondi, Shrinath Singh Hada and the Chief Guest was Smt. Sonia Gurjar of the Zila Parishad. The camp began with the invocation and later all the distinguished

Aims and Objectives:

1. *To appreciate the dignity of women in the light of our rich Indian cultural heritage*
2. *Considering the cultural history of Rajasthan to discuss the significance of womanhood to create awareness regarding the following social concerns regarding – (a) gender discrimination and violence to be curbed; (b) to encourage the girls towards education and (c) work along the Gandhian way of encouraging them to contribute to social and national transformation.*
3. *To create an environment in the society to enable girls to lead a dignified, self-reliant and progressive life for a better society, nation and future symbolising unity in diversity of our multi-cultural land.*

guests offered tributes to Kakasaheb Kalelkar. Students from 15 schools and colleges of the region attended the camp alongwith their teachers and principals attended the sessions and discussed issues related to the girl child and educating her.

The event saw cultural presentations by the participants in which plays on the subject were enacted by the Hindustani Sahitya Sabha theatre group. The campers also presented a play on the subject.

Residential women awareness programme on Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao

A three-day residential women awareness programme on "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" was organized at Dhulagori Mahila Samity, Howrah, West Bengal. The programme, organized by the GSDS saw the participation of 50 women from the



Shri Narayan Bhattacharjee answers a query of a participant (Inset) during the awareness programme.

districts. Shri Narayan Bhai, Secretary Gandhi Mission Trust and Governing Body Member GSDS; Shri Chandan Pal, Secretary, Gandhi Peace Foundation was present on the occasion.

Speakers at the awareness programme reiterated the need to educate the girl child. They highlighted concern over the declining female sex ratio in the country and hoped that even women stop inflicting crimes on their own kind.

The other speakers on the occasion included Smt Minati Dutta who spoke on ICDS (Integrated Child Development Scheme), Mr. Amal Mondal, who spoke on the importance of women empowerment at all levels. Smt Sanchita Banerjee spoke about entrusting social responsibility on women.

Ang Mahila Sammelan on Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Abhiyaan

Eighteen districts of Bihar and Jharkhand together make an area where Angika language is being spoken. One of the under-developed areas



(From L to R): Distinguished guests, Shri Prasun Latant, Smt. Kalpana Shashtri, Ms. Shashi Tyagi, Shri Ramji Singh, along with others light the ceremonial lamp during the programme.



Participants from Ang Pradesh during the programme.



Cultural programme during the Sammelan was a special highlight . Above: Group Dance by 'Samarpan Group' from Sahib Ganj.



Presidential address by Smt. Shashi Tyagi during the Sammelan.

especially for women, the Samiti organized a two-day *Ang Mahila Sammelan on Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao* – as part of the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Abhiyaan – at Bhagalpur, Bihar on March 26-27, 2016. The programme was organized in association with Vishnu Prabhakar Pratisthan, Noida, a social organization engaged in propagating education and moral values. *Madad Foundation*, engaged in training and making girls and women of the area self-dependent, also joined as a collaborator.

The two-day conclave was inaugurated by Shri Kumar Shubhmurti, President, Bihar Bhudan Yogyo Committee at Devi Babu Dharnshala Compound, Bhagalpur. The inaugural session was presided over by Smt. Shashi Tyagi an eminent social worker from Jodhpur. The others who were present on the occasion included: Shri Ramji Singh (Ex. MP); Smt. Kalpana Shashtri, Ms. Naheed Akeel, Sh. Shiv Shankar Singh Parijat (Retd Jan Sampark Adhikari); journalist Kumar Krishnan, Smt. Rani Choubey, Shri Atul Prabhakar, Smt. Alka Sinha (Hindi writer), Shri Prasun Latant and Smt. Gita Bai Kejriwal.

The speakers emphasized the need to discourage female foeticide and to encourage a healthy upbringing of the girl child by providing equal opportunity in education.

As part of the programme, 20 women who have done credible work in various fields were honoured on the occasion. The session on “Mahatma Gandhi’s of Women Empowerment” was presided over by Sh. Ramsaran ji. The others who spoke on the occasion were Dr. Sujata Choudhary.



In Tihar

***“A prison should be a home of corrections
and not punishment”***

- M.K Gandhi

(From the diary of Mahadev Desai P-170)

As a part of expansion programmes to take the message of Mahatma Gandhi to different sections of the society, the Samiti has been working for the welfare of the inmates in central prison Tihar, one of the largest prisons in Asia, with an aim to involve the inmates in constructive programmes through dialogue and value based programmes.

The initiative which started in 1999 was inaugurated by veteran Gandhian leader Shri Sadiq Ali. It was a small but significant step taken towards providing solace to a section of the deprived humanity.

As part of its activities, GSDS has been organizing painting competition, quiz competition, regular shramdhans (cleanliness drive) and vocational training programmes from time-to-time in Tihar.

The Samiti has been organizing various programmes with the inmates of Central Prisons in Tihar Jail.

During the year, as part of the Medical services to the inmates rendered by Dr. Manju Aggarwal in CJ 4, 5, 8, 9 over 2000 patients were treated through naturopathy and reflexology.

The Cutting and Tailoring Unit – an initiative of the GSDS in Tihar is functioning with the inmates. 10% of the total production yielded from this unit goes to the Prisoners Welfare Fund

Kargha Unit – The Kargha Unit (an initiative of the GSDS) which started during the month of July 2013 still continues to function with two Nigerians and five Indians regularly working on it.

Regular spinning, weaving and naturopathy programmes have been continuing.



- **Painting competition organized**

A competition was organized for Inmates of Central Jail no 4 Tihar on September 30, 2015 as part of the Gandhi Jayanti celebrations. The theme of the competition was the life and teachings of Gandhiji. The competition was held at ward no 13 (Vocational Centre). 46 inmates participated in the competition and used various techniques to paint Gandhiji and his teachings. Warden Sh. Amarjeet and welfare Officer Sh Zakir Hussain were present to increase the moral of inmates who participated in painting Competition.

- **Gandhi Quiz organized**

A Quiz Competition on the life and teachings of Gandhiji was organized at Ward no 13 (Vocational Centre) on September 30, 2015. The quiz was conducted by Welfare Officer Sh. Zakir Hussain & Sh Amarjeet Warden In-Charge Ward no 13. 43 inmates participated in the competition, which saw almost five rounds, after which the winners were selected.



Gandhi Quiz in progress at Central Prisons, Tihar.



Programmes in the North East

- **Dandi March Trophy for Children of Chapori**

An on- the- spot painting and elocution competition on *Peaceful Environment* for the **Dandi March Trophy for Children of Chapori** was conducted by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in association with the Surovi Shishu Panchayat, Guwahati Assam on January 10, 2016 at Community Hall of Hajongbori Village of Chandrapur Development Block of Kamrup Metro District of Assam. The programme was conducted in presence of Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, Mrs. Anjali Doimary, Ward Member of Panikhaity Gram Panchayat, Mrs. Lutfa Begum, Joint Secretary of Manab Sewa Sangha, Mr. Imran Hussain and Mr. Amar Ali, Teachers of Axom Vidyamandir School, Nizarapar, Noonmati along with the members and volunteers of Surovi Shishu Panchayat.

About 50 students from Hajongbori, Khankor, Panikhaity, Amgaon, Diyachor Basti, Bonda, Satgaon, Bhabanipur and Nizarapar villages of Chandrapur Development Block area along with 10 non- participating students from Hajongbori village took part in the competition. The programme was designed to spread awareness on Gandhian principles and ideologies among the children of riverine (Chapori) areas.

The students were given two hours to develop their paintings and were later encouraged to speak on the subject.

Mrs Anjali Doimary, the Ward Member of Pankihaity Gram Panchayat said programmes like

the Dandi March Trophy would benefit the local children and they hardly got any opportunities to express themselves. She offered full support to GSDS to help facilitate similar initiatives for the children there. These, she felt could promote greater community level participation.

Dr Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti talked about the Gandhian perspective to environment. He also spoke about various initiatives of Gandhi Smriti. Ms Priyanka Chetri, a coordinator of the Surovi Shishu Panchayat and a student of the Cottons University talked at length on how children could contribute to environmental protection. She said how the children involved with Surovi tried to create awareness on issues of environment.

Gandhi Smriti fellow, Ms Kanchan Nath, a class XI student shared how she was motivated to contribute to the society. She said through her dances she tried to encourage other children to also contribute. There was an interaction of the children with Kanchan Nath.

Taking the opportunity Mr. Imran Hussain also encouraged the participants to carry forward their drawing and painting skill any how because this skill can only help them strengthening their writing skills. He talked about the childhood of Mahatma Gandhi.

- **Promoting Volunteerism among Young Girls**

More than 100 girls from about 10 districts of Assam representing different universities and colleges of the state came together for a two day workshop to volunteer for community and nation building. The programme was organized in Sarania Ashram, Guwahati.



Various sessions from the workshop at Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust, Assam Branch in progress in Guwahati. Seen in the picture are senior representatives from the KGNMT; Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, conducting the workshop and participants at group discussion.

The workshop was organized from February 22 to 23, 2016 by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi and Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust, Assam Branch aimed to promote the spirit of volunteerism amongst young women of the state.

Commemorating the 72nd death anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi, speakers at the inaugural session exhorted the young girls to take to volunteering in different issues for the development of Assam. Amongst those who were present on the occasion included senior Gandhian and Jamnalal Bajaj awardee Shakuntala Devi; Smt Damayanti Devi, Pratinidhi, Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust; Smt Minoti Choudhury, Vice Chairman, KGNMT; Dr Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti.

The Chief Guest at the Inaugural session, Smt Bornali Sarmah, Additional DC, Kamrup Metro stressed on the need to develop capacities of young women so that they can contribute in the development of the state. She pointed out that training programmes like these could help young women to find new avenues of skill development and understanding of issues concerning the society.

The Pratinidhi of Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust, Assam Branch, Damayanti Devi, spoke of how the Trust was working for women empowerment in Assam. She felt empowering women especially young women was a priority area which needed the attention of the entire society.

Dr Vedabhyas Kundu talked about the initiative of the GSDS, to train young people across the country to volunteer for community and nation building. He felt efforts need to be made to ensure that we get the demographic dividends of such a huge youth population of India.

Prof Alaka Sharma Desai, USTM, Meghalaya discussed about Gandhian concept of volunteer service and constructive work. She said, "Volunteerism is not for any financial gain. Simple living and high thinking is more important."

Representing the young girls at the workshop, Ms Daizima Parvin said true volunteering requires a strong will power, determination and enduring capacity to play effective role in combating socio-political barbarities in any society. She stressed on the need to develop social leadership amongst young women so that they can take the lead in addressing challenging issues of the society.

The participants took the initiative to develop a plan of action to promote volunteerism amongst young girls of the state on issues such as sanitation, environmental conservation, education, education of the girl child and ending domestic violence.

- **Workshop on Youth Volunteerism for Constructive Work**

A two-day workshop was organized on “Youth Volunteerism for Constructive Work” by the GSDS in collaboration with Downton University, Guwahati on February 26-27, 2016. 185 students from different departments of Downton University, Guwahati participated in the workshop and took part in all the activities conducted during the workshop. The workshop was inaugurated by the Vice Chancellor of Downton University and former Director of AIIMS, Delhi, Dr. Ramesh Chandra Deka.

The Students were trained and motivated during the two-day workshop on skill and ability development, group exercises, field activities, interactions, quiz etc, conducted by the different resource persons.

The students were further divided into 11 groups and discussions on different issues of social concern were conducted. On the concluding day, paper presentations by the students brought to light many problems and issues related to them to the fore. Each of the participants spoke on the occasion.

- **Workshop on “Participation of Voluntary Organisations (VOs) in Rural Development for the North Eastern Region” – Gram Chetna**

79 representatives from 46 organizations from seven states of the North Eastern India participated in the two-day Gram Chetna II workshop on *Participation of Voluntary Organisations (VOs) in Rural Development for the North Eastern Region*,



Distinguished gathering lighting the ceremonial lamp at the inauguration of the programme.

February 15-16, 2016 at NIRD, Guwahati. The programme was organized by the Samiti in association with Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini.



Distinguished speakers attentively listen to a participant (Inset) sharing his perspectives on rural development during the workshop.

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Hon Minister of Youth and Sports graced the inaugural function as the chief guest. Ch. Birender Singh, Minister of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water & Sanitation was the chief guest for the valedictory function on 16th. Additionally Dr R.M. Pant, Director NIRD also participated in the workshop.

A cultural programme consisting of a medley of songs and dances of all states of North Eastern India was also organized with the help of Sanskar Bharati, on the evening of first day which was greatly appreciated by participants.

- **National Seminar-cum-Exhibition of Women Entrepreneurs of North Eastern Region**

Gandhi Smriti & Darshan Samiti in association with Beti & Shiksha Foundation organized a national seminar-cum-exhibition of *Women Entrepreneurs of North Eastern Region* at the IIE (Indian Institute of Entrepreneurs), Guwahati from March 2-6, 2016. The aim of this seminar was to promote and propagate North-East by showcasing socially responsible ethnic products and handicrafts, tourism, cuisines, arts and culture, organic and medicinal plants. The seminar-cum-exhibition was inaugurated on March 3, 2016 by Smt. Manju Bora a renowned film maker who was the chief guest of the occasion.



Distinguished guests inaugurating the exhibition of women entrepreneurs of the N.E. Region.

Delivering the inaugural address, Ms. Manju Bora, encouraged the women participants of the seminar by highlighting the uniqueness of women in NER and women centric culture of the region. She spoke about the active participation of the women in family business development in the region. She also highlighted upon the traditional aspect of handloom weaving and the women weavers of the region.

Sh. Narayan Borkotoki former Member of Parliament from Assam, who was the guest of honour, addressed the gathering by speaking about the capability of women entrepreneurs in every industry in the NER. He stressed upon the need for support and enhancing the marketability for women in the region to boost their income. He also shared his experiences of finding women entrepreneurs in NER more successful than male entrepreneurs in the small scale industries segment. He stressed upon the importance of association between Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and IIE for boosting the traditional sector of the Region.

Dr. Sriparna B. Baruah, Head CIE of IIE highlighted the SHG, MSME and Startup modes of women entrepreneurship in NER. She also spoke about the paucity of availability of data on women entrepreneurs of the region and the opportunities and challenges of Women Entrepreneurs in NER.

Ms. Renu Sharma, President of Beti and Shiksha Foundation while introducing Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti thanked the GSDS for supporting this programme. She then urged the gathering for their whole-hearted participation to promote the cause. She further briefed about the exhibition and seminar which has been conducted to showcase the products of women entrepreneurs of the region and also to address the issues faced by women entrepreneurs of the region through various sessions.



Ms. Renu Sharma, President B&S Foundation addressing the gathering at the national seminar in Guwahati.

Earlier, Mr. Manoj Kr. Das, Director of IIE, while welcoming the guests and participants, highlighted the developmental agenda of the Government of India for the people of North East and the historical connection between the North Eastern States and the rest of the country. He spoke about the handloom weaving women of North East and the importance of rural cluster development in the region.

The exhibition showcased around 36 stalls on various products developed by various women entrepreneurs of the region. This exhibition was a platform for consumers to meet producers directly and get to know the people behind the products.

On March 6, a detailed discussion on the need, necessity and model of enhancing and promoting the entrepreneurs of the North Eastern Region was discussed.

Some of the subjects that were discussed included:

1. *Scheme facilitating for Women Entrepreneurs - Challenges & Opportunities for Women Entrepreneur*
2. *Opportunities & prospect for women entrepreneur in the emerging service sector*
3. *Banker & women entrepreneurs Opportunities & prospect in food processing sector*
4. *Opportunities & prospects in handloom & handicraft sector*

Recommendations of the Seminar:

- i. 8 (Eight) Huts made of Cane & Bamboo (temporary structure). Each hut will have 20 stalls inside it, there will be ladder entry from the front and exit on the back and this infrastructure will be arranged in two rows.
- ii. There will be live demo of art and handloom in front of each hut.
- iii. There will be food court of each state respectively on the backyard.
- iv. An amphitheatre will showcase cultural heritage every day.
- v. There will be a training centre and an administrative building as a common facility.
- vi. Conduction of Seminars, inviting speakers from all walks of life, women achievers, entrepreneurs, technologist, social-media experts, doctors, counselors, etc.
- vii. Seminars on E-commerce, Development of Digital/ Social Media, Business Development, Entrepreneurial Skill Development & Enhancement.



Participants at the seminar in Guwahati during the experience sharing session.

Earlier, on March 2, a Press Conference was organized which was addressed by Ms. Renu Sharma, Mr. Manoj Das, Dr. Sriparna B. Baruah. Mr. Gulshan Gupta, Coordinator North East from GSDS was also present on the occasion.

• 2-day Orientation Programme on Youth in Peace-building and Skill Development

Promoting genuine youth participation in Manipur, enhancing youth engagement in governance, initiating focused training programmes in peace-building and nonviolent communication,

developing skill development programmes which helps youth to ensure sustainable livelihood and imbibing a spirit of volunteerism amongst young people so that they can contribute to community and nation building were the major highlights of the two-day orientation programme organized by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti and Kasturba-Gandhi Institute For Development, Manipur.



Speakers at the orientation programme in KGNMT sharing their experiences and perspectives on peace-building initiatives.

The orientation programme on Youth in Peace-building and Skill Development was organized on November 26-27, 2015 at the Manipur Press Club, Meijorkhul, Imphal. About 100 youth from different districts including Imphal East, Imphal West, Bishnupur and Thoubal took part in the programme.

The participants felt in the context of the state, greater youth participation and engagement in civic issues and governance and enhancing their skills so that they can get sustainable livelihood could go a long way in ending situations of conflict in the state.

Delivering the welcome address, Dr. Oinam Sareeta Devi,

Secretary of the Kasturba Gandhi Institute for Development outlined the importance of training in peace-building and skill development for the youth of the state. She said such programmes could help create awareness amongst the youth and help them negotiate many difficult situations they may be facing in their daily lives.

Delivering the youth perspective at the inaugural session, Ningthoujam Ormila Devi, a third year Commerce student and member of The Peace Gong, Manipur, (a youth forum to facilitate dialogue amongst young people), said youth needs to take up pro-active role in solving problems in their community. In this context training in the following would be helpful: communication, understanding complex social concerns, awareness of different Government schemes and policies, which could not only help them but others, conflict resolution, leadership development, team building and group dynamics, financial management, upgradation and exposure to new skills, develop action plan for community building work.

To ensure greater youth engagement in different issues of the state, Ormila Devi suggested the need for district-wise youth policies in Manipur so that needs and special concerns of the youth in each district can be addressed effectively. There are nine districts in the state and specific youth policies on: needs of employment and entrepreneurship development, education, health, participation and spaces of opportunities can, go a long way in solving many pressing issues of the area. The overarching goal of the youth policies, she felt, should be to promote wellness and happiness amongst youth and make them realize that they have a critical role to play for the sustainable development of the state. "Ensuring sustainable livelihood for the youth of the state will go a long way in facilitating wellbeing and happiness amongst them and thereby contribute to a peaceful situation", she said.

Delivering the keynote address, Prof. Ksh. Bimola Devi of the Manipur University said, "We could contribute towards a peaceful society, only if we ourselves become a non-violent person", adding, "We have to start from our homes to learn the importance of discipline and ensure peace within ourselves". She discussed in details the Gandhian approach of ahimsa and how young people could practice it in their daily lives. We have to constantly practice to be honest, truthful, compassionate, develop empathy for others and be sincere in whatever we do. We have to be peaceful within ourselves and then contribute towards a peaceful society and nation.



Rendition of 'Vaishnabajana Tau' in Manipuri language by students during the programme.

Outlining the approach of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in its programme to train young people in peace-building, Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS said, "We have to remember that Gandhi made both the oppressor and the oppressed recognize their common humanity", and added, "For Gandhi, ahimsa was the expression of the deepest love for all humans, including one's opponents. He believed that if violence was used to achieve any end, even if it was employed in the name of justice, the result would be more devastating.

Working Session 1

To ensure that the participants got acclimatized with the programme and with each other, the game of musical chairs was played in two approaches. The first version was the traditional version and the second version was an improvisation where students were asked to accommodate people so that no one is left standing even when there is one chair left. This led to the discussion on the significance of active co-existence. Dr Kundu said active co-existence involves social interaction, the more you interact with people, and the more you co-exist. It requires actively accepting diversity and difference. It involves breaking down barriers, the outward expression of positive and negative emotional freedom and the fostering of a collaborative and empowering sense of community.

The methodology to promote active co-existence: In case of conflicts of any kind or disputes, what is important is to encourage sustained face-to-face dialogue; combined with understanding of techniques of conflict resolution, build trusts, develop long-term relationships, and contribute towards building a culture of co-existence and nonviolence.



Group presentations on different issues related to peace and conflict resolution formed an integral part of the orientation programme.

Working Session 2

In this session, Dr Sapam Dilip, Assistant Professor, LMS Law College, Imphal talked about the opportunities for young people's participation in peace building at different levels including family, youth organizations, educational institutions, community, national and global level. He also discussed the Gandhian approach to mutual co-existence and insisted why sustainable education was essential for young people. He felt sustainable skill development should be promoted so that young people can contribute to climate change and ecological security.

Day 2: November 27, 2015

Working Session 3

Prof Tomba Singh of the Commerce Department of Manipur University gave a powerful exposition on the need to promote programmes related to skill building of the youth in the state so that with opportunities of livelihood they can contribute to community and nation building. He said success does not come through magic. It needs necessary skills to succeed. This universal truth is equally applicable for the young generation. Youth energy can be the driving force for social and economic development of any country provided it is channelized effectively. Skill development and youth employment are the best means to mobilise this force, he added.

Working Session 4

Dr Vedabhyas Kundu conducted this session. Through role plays and simulation exercises, the participants were sensitized on how to be an effective communicator. The importance of active listening, being alert, how to deliver speech, dynamics of group communication, non violent communication and the Gandhian approach



to communication and putting together effective messages were discussed in this session.



A student being felicitated with certificate of appreciation for his participation during the orientation programme.

Based on different perspectives put forward by the speakers and participants, it was felt more rigorous discussions were needed on different topics. On both the days adequate time was given for group work and each of the groups comprising about 10-12 participants came up sets of recommendations and suggestions. The groups included:

- I. Promoting Communication for Peace Initiatives in Manipur*
- II. Promotion of skill building and volunteerism amongst youth of Manipur*
- III. Empowerment of young women of Manipur*
- IV. Enhancing youth participation in governance*
- V. Encouraging Peace Education in Schools/ Colleges/Universities*

- **Two-day Youth Peace Festival organised**

A two-day *Youth Peace Festival* was organized at Kasturba Gandhi Institute for Development, Manipur, Imphal on January 30-31, 2016 as a tribute to the 68th anniversary of the Martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi. The programme was organized at two districts of Manipur.



Glimpses from the “Youth Festival “ in Manipur in progress.



Painting on “My Vision of a Peaceful World” by L. Boshni Devi.

The first day of the programme was organized at Lamyamba Sanglen, Palace Compound, Imphal East. In the Inaugural function, Prof. N. Khagendra Singh V.C. of Manipur University of Culture, Dr. Th. Khomdon Singh, Librarian (Consultant) Manipur University were the Chief Guest and Guest of Honour respectively. Thanjam Uttami Devi, Reporter and Editorial Board Member of Peace Gong Manipur Chapter was honoured in the Inaugural Function and Shri N. Inaocha Singh President, KGID, Manipur presided over the function.

Dr. O. Sareeta Devi, Secretary KGID, Manipur said that the main aim of organizing the programme was to encourage the collective youth force for the service of transformation in the way of peace, love and non-violence to bring about a social change by creating a common platform for youth development and youth action and added that for making a better society we need healthy committed young people.

The programme aimed to sensitize the youth to understand the problem of violence, its impact and the remedy in the society.

The others who spoke on the occasion included: Km. Thangjam Uttami Devi, Dr. Khomdon Singh, Prof. N. Khagendro Singh, Shri R.K. Jhalajit Singh and Dr. K. Dhaneshwori Devi, Asst. Proffessor; Imphal College.

Cultural performances by local artists and students formed a major attraction of the programme. At the valedictory session, 2nd Volume in Manipuri Version was released by the team of Peace Gong Manipur Chapter.

An inter-school painting competition on the theme: "My Vision of a Peaceful World" for students of Class VII- XII was organised in which 58 schools participated. The winners also received participation certificates. Besides the first, second and third prizes, three more consolation prizes were awarded.

- **Workshop for Students to Volunteer for Constructive Work**

A two-day workshop for students to volunteer for constructive work was held in the Tripura University campus. The workshop was organised by Centre for Gandhian Studies, Department of Rural Management and Development, Tripura University and Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi during 12th and 13th January 2016. Overall 107 numbers of students from different departments such as Rural Management and Development, History, Forestry and Biodiversity, Economics, Sanskrit, Sociology, Law, Hindi, Information Technology, Human Physiology, IMD, Commerce, Geography, B.B.A. and B.C.A. have actively participated in the workshop.

The aim of the workshop was to develop capacities of students of the University to volunteer for constructive work, towards the larger objective of reaching social development, particularly in the rural areas. The specific objectives were –

- To introduce the concept of volunteerism along with the volunteerism in contemporary society.
- To share the best practices of volunteerism supported by cases at national and international level.
- To familiarize participants with volunteerism by developing Volunteer Action Plan

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Anjan Kr. Ghosh, Tripura University, Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS, Prof. S. Poddar, Dean of Arts and Commerce, Tripura University who is closely associated with Centre for Gandhian Studies, Mr. Ajit Biswas, renowned social activist and Mr. Gulshan Gupta, took part in the inaugural session. Dr. Arobindo Mahato delivered the welcome address followed by Prof. S. Poddar, Dean, faculty of arts and commerce.

Various working sessions formed part of the workshop. A Discussions on *Gandhain Concept of Voluntary Service and Constructive Work; Voluntarism in Contemporary Societies; Poem, Spiritualism and Food Habit; Spaces and Opportunities for Young Volunteers in Constructive work in North-East India; Discussion on Roadmap for GSDS – Tripura University student volunteer action* and so on kept the students engaged.

Group Formations

- *Group 1: Volunteering for Visually Challenged People*
- *Group 2: Beti Bachao Beti Padhao*
- *Group 3: Volunteering for Awareness against the Usage of Plastic*
- *Group 4: Village Sanitation*
- *Group 5: Health Care Facilities*
- *Group 6: Women Empowerment through Education*
- *Group 7: Environmental Awareness*
- *Group 8: Awareness Programme of Fundamental Rights: A Special Preference of Right to Information*

The valedictory session was presided by the honourable Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof.(Dr.) Anjan Mukherjee accompanied by Prof.S.Poddar, Dean Arts and Commerce, Mr. Ajit Kr. Biswas, Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Mr. Shyamal Roy Choudhury Dr.SamratGoswami from MRMD reported the whole event with recommendations.

- **Workshop on Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao**

A workshop was organized on the theme of *Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao* by the Samiti in collaboration with Tripura Central University and Bharat Vikas Parishad in the Keprampara Village of Tripura on January 15-16, 2016. In the two-day workshop, the villagers took part with all their enthusiasm. About 200 villagers, especially women from the community participated in the workshop. A special *rangoli* competition was organized in which 11 women took part. Faculty members from the University, local Panchayat members, women activists, and people from the community took part in the competition.

On the second day, which was celebrated as *Makar Sakranti*, a special traditional sweet making competition was organized in which 29 women took

part. A conglomeration of about 300 villagers was a special attraction of the programme. Prizes were also distributed.

- **Students of Tripura University raise awareness on “Prohibition”**



As part of the awareness campaign on social issues, students of the Tripura University went to the interior villages of Tripura and performed street plays on ‘prohibition’. Through traditional songs and dances, the University students demonstrated the ill effects of consumption of alcohol.

During their visit to the interior villages, they also interacted with the children from the local schools and performed street plays for them too.

- **Workshop for Young Volunteers to Volunteer for Constructive Work**

The workshop for “Young Volunteers to Volunteer for Constructive Work” was organized by the GSDS in association with the NSS Cell, Sikkim University, Gangtok on March 15-16, 2016 at Raap Jyor Cauvery Girls Hostel Hall, 5th Mile, Gangtok. 118 participants from various academic departments of Sikkim University, affiliated colleges of University having NSS units such as Damber Singh College, 6th Mile, Sikkim Govt. College, Tadong, Sikkim Govt. College, Namchi, Loyola College of Education, Namchi, Sikkim Govt. College, Geyzing and SRM University, 5th Mile took part in the workshop. Dr. S.K. Gurung, Registrar, Sikkim University, Shri Puran Chettri, District Youth Coordinator, Nehru



Young volunteers partake in the sanitation campaign in the University campus.

Yuva Kendra Sangathan, Gangtok (Chief Guest), Shri N.K. Naik, Zonal Director, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, Gangtok (Guest of Honour), Dr. Sujata Upadhyay, Programme Coordinator, NSS and Dr. Jigmie W. Bhutia, Programme Officer, NSS inaugurated the workshop.

The following sessions were held in the two days workshop:-

- ❖ Perspectives on volunteering and concept of service-Dr. Sujata Upadhyay, Programme Coordinator, NSS
- ❖ Traits of an effective volunteer- Ms. Viveka Gurung, Master trainer
- ❖ Group activity on national level themes- Session moderators: Dr. Sujata Upadhyay, Ms. Viveka Gurung and Mr. Hemant Kr. Yadav
- ❖ Practical examples of volunteerism- Mr. Hemant Kr. Yadav, Ph.D Scholar, Dept. of Peace and Conflict Studies and Management, Sikkim University, IG NSS Awardee and Master trainer
- ❖ Brief talk on Importance of effective communication & ICT and volunteerism - Shri Shailesh Shukla, Hindi Officer, Sikkim University
- ❖ Brief talk on “Team Building, Leadership and Time Management” followed by exercise- Dr. P.K. Das, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Management, Sikkim University
- ❖ Brief talk on “Moral values and ethics” followed by an activity-Dr. Sujata Upadhyay, Programme Coordinator, NSS
- ❖ Brief talk on “Conflict Management” followed by activity- Mr. Hemant Kr. Yadav, Master trainer
- ❖ Brief talk on “Health Model of Volunteering” – Ms. Viveka Gurung, Master trainer

Group activities :

- i. *Volunteerism for Digital Literacy*
- ii. *Volunteerism for natural and man-made disaster*
- iii. *Volunteerism for Environment Protection and Preservation*
- iv. *Volunteerism for Swachh Bharat Mission*
- v. *Volunteerism for Health*
- vi. *Volunteerism for Nationalism*
- vii. *Volunteerism for Peace and Brotherhood*
- viii. *Volunteerism for Women Empowerment*
- ix. *Volunteerism for Garbage Management and*
- x. *Volunteerism for Improving Bad Road Condition.*



Group activity as part of the “Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan” in progress in Sikkim University.

(Photo courtesy: www.cus.ac.in/)

In the session on “Traits of an effective volunteer” Ms. Viveka Gurung highlighted “Johari Window” for determination of known, hidden, blind and unknown self. In the session on “Team Building, Leadership and Time Management”.

The other sessions that were conducted were: Communication Skills by Dr. Sujata Upadhyaya and Conflict Management by Mr. Hemant Kr. Yadav.

The valedictory address was given by Mr. Neeraj Adhikari, President, Sikkim University Students’ Association. Dr. S. Manivannan, Dean of Students’ Welfare, Sikkim University gave practical examples to the volunteers on how our thinking and approach motivates our own life and others. The vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Jigmie W. Bhutia, Programme Officer, NSS.





Programmes in Champaran

Buniyadi Vidyalaya, Vrinadavan celebrates 77th foundation day

Rajkiya Buniyadi Vidyalaya, West Champaran celebrated its 77th foundation day on April 6, 2015



Children of the Vidyalaya partake in the celebrations by rendering Gandhiji's favourite bhajans.

in the school premises. The principal of the school Shri Sashisekhar inaugurated the programme. In his address he said that it was Mahatma Gandhi's vision of self employment that led to the establishment of the Buniyadi Vidyalayas and this was the first Buniyadi Vidyalaya that was set up by Gandhiji in Chanpatia, Bihar in April 6, 1939.

It was under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi that 53 Buniyadi Vidyalayas were established in both East and West Champaran. During the programme, students who had excelled in their classes and other extra-curricular activities were awarded. The programme was attended by over 600 people that included children and teachers.

Discussion on Save and Educate the Girl Child

The Buniyadi Vidyalaya, Brindavan, Champaran Bihar, organised a programme from May 11–13,

2015 to create awareness about *Saving and Educating the Girl Child*. The programme was attended by over 300 children mostly girls and discussed issues related to women empowerment. Many of the participants who were hearing impaired and could not speak (deaf and dumb) also displayed great enthusiasm during the programme. The chief guest on this occasion was Ms. Santubala ji, the *Patron Head* of the Kasturba Balika Vidyalaya.

The students from Buniyadi Vidyalaya also took out a rally from the school to Gandhi Ashram to spread the need for 'saving and educating the girl child'. They also did *shramdaan* on their way to the Ashram as part of the *Swachh Bharat Abhiyan*. Before leaving the children paid florid tributes to Bapu.

On the next day due to earthquake, for which the programme had to be postponed, the school holidays were declared. Songs, prayer and posters on the theme were done as part of the activities.

Workshop on Fundamental Rights and their proper usage

The Samiti organised a workshop on "*Fundamental Rights and their proper usage*" in Champaran from June 8-15, 2015 with the aim to inculcate knowledge about the rights of the citizens as enshrined in the Indian Constitution. The purpose of this workshop was also to make the children aware of their responsibilities and duties as citizens and their fundamental right to vote and choose the right candidate as their representative in the Parliament. About 100 children took part in the programme.

Senior people who coordinated the workshop also briefed the children about the life's message of Mahatma Gandhi laying special emphasis upon the philosophy of truth and non-violence. Children were told that as and when they would exercise

their right to vote, they must go by their conscience, rather than fall for any sort of temptations.



As part of this workshop, children were divided into groups for conducting a ground survey and they went from one home to the other generating awareness to people about the importance of 'Aadhar Card' their 'Voter ID' and the necessity to vote. They also advised the people to get their 'Aadhar' and 'Voter ID' made.

Gandhi Quiz organised

As part of the initiative to popularise the life's message of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi amongst school children, the Samiti initiated the Gandhi Quiz about a decade back. The aim was to help the children understand different episodes from the life of Mahatma Gandhi.

In view of this, a Gandhi Quiz competition was organised for 200 children from Class III to VIII from June 15-20, 2015 at **the Rajkiya Buniyadi Vidyalaya, Champaran**. During the quiz, children were divided into a group of three. The children were given a questionnaire. Based on this, children were selected for the first, second and third prizes respectively. It was decided that the winners would be awarded during the Independence Day celebrations on August 15, by the Bihar Government.

Workshop on Disaster Management

A workshop on *Disaster Management* was organised for **children of the Vidyalaya** from June 25-30, 2015. The workshop aimed at providing knowledge to the children on safety methods that needs to be adhered to during any form of disaster that could strike any time. The workshop – organised in view of the recent Nepal disaster – was attended by over 100 children from around the area.

Since a little knowledge and some simple precautions can help one to survive disasters, the children were given detailed information about preventive measures before as well as after earthquakes.

The following points were discussed with the children, which were followed by a mock drill. The children also visited the nearby villages and talked to people about the preventive measures.

Facts 'U' Need to Know

Before the Earthquake:

1. *Be prepared to act. Know how to act.*
2. *Identify safe places in your work area/home to 'Drop, Cover and Hold On.' Know at least two ways to exit the building safely after an earthquake.*
3. *3. Stock up on emergency supplies. Keep the basics: flashlight, first-aid kit, whistle, gloves, goggles, blankets and sturdy shoes.*
4. *Plan as if food and water may not be available for about 24 hours and other supplies for up to three days.*
5. *Always pre-arrange for safety measures. Make sure heavy materials aren't nearby.*

During an Earthquake:

1. *Remain calm as the quake occurs – others will respond to your actions. A cool head can prevent panic.*
2. *If you are indoors when the shaking occurs, stay there. Move away from windows and unsecured tall furniture. Drop, cover and hold on under a desk, a table, bed or along an interior wall. Protect your head, neck and face. Stay under cover until the shaking stops and debris settles.*
3. *If you are outdoors, move to an open area away from falling hazards such as trees, power lines, and buildings. Drop to the ground and cover your head and neck.*



After an Earthquake:

1. *Remain calm and reassuring.*
2. *Check yourself and other for injuries.*
3. *Do not move injured people unless they are in danger from any debris falling upon them.*
4. *Provide first-aid to the injured.*



Expect aftershocks.

After large earthquakes, tremors and aftershocks can continue for days.

1. Be ready to act without electricity or lights. Know how to move around the area and how to exit in the dark. Know how to access and use your emergency supplies.
2. Be aware of objects that have shifted during the quake.
3. If you must leave a building, use extreme caution. Continually assess your surroundings and be on the lookout for falling debris and other hazards.
4. Take your keys, personal items and emergency supplies with you if safe to do so.
5. Do not re-enter damaged buildings until an all-clear is given by the disaster management/rescue operations team.
6. Use telephones only to report a life-threatening emergency. Cell and hard-line phone systems normally get jammed. Therefore use text messages, since they may go through.

Group Discussion on Champaran Satyagraha

As part of the endeavor to acclimatize the school students with the Champaran Satyagraha, group discussions and interactions were organized every Saturday during July. Through the



Autobiography of Mahatma Gandhi, students were told about the life of the Mahatma. Besides, the teachers discussed about the situation

in Champaran when Mahatma Gandhi arrived there in 1917. Groups were formed to discuss different aspects of Bapu's life and the Champaran Satyagraha. Students from nearby schools would also be invited in the coming months to acquaint them with the Champaran Satyagraha.

Tributes to Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam

On July 28, 2015, a condolence meeting was organized following the demise of former President of India, Dr A P J Abdul Kalam. A photograph of Dr Kalam with group of students of the school in Gandhi Smriti was unveiled in this meeting. The students and teachers talked about the contribution of Dr Kalam and how he inspired people of India.

Other Programmes:

Several programmes that were organized during August 2015 were:

1. In the first week of August, a tree plantation drive was held in which many trees were planted by the school children and other members from the community. The Bihar Government provided many trees for plantation.
2. The school celebrated Independence Day on August 15, 2015 in which various programmes were conducted such as sports and games, cultural programmes comprising of patriotic songs and dance. The entire school staff and children celebrated the day with gaiety and fervour.
3. A sanitation drive was conducted by the school in which children cleaned up the

school as well as the surrounding areas. The Block-in-Charge, Kamlesh Kumar, the former block officer Shri Jagdish Narayan Pandey and the Village Panchayat Pramukh Shri Pradeep Thakur also participated in the drive and encouraged the children.

4. An initiative to read out the Autobiography of Mahatma Gandhi has begun on a regular basis in the school. The children are also being prepared for the Gandhi Quiz regularly.
5. Orientation programme for the children selected to participate in the Value Creation Camp and Gandhi Jayanti programme in Gandhi Smriti has begun.

Discussion on status of Buniyadi Vidyalayas in Bihar held

Director, GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan visited both the Buniyadi Vidyalayas at Vrindaban and Sirisia at Champaran Bihar on December 16-17, 2015 along with the Programme Officer, Shri Vedabhyas Kundu. The Samiti led the discussion on the condition of the Buniyadi Vidyalayas in Champaran. Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, assured the gathering that the Samiti would devote itself to improve the conditions of the Buniyadi Vidyalayas of the area. These were founded by Mahatma Gandhi and are based on his philosophy and principles.

Shri Gyan said that all the 24 Buniyadi Vidyalayas of the area would be holding various inter-school competitions like *Vande Mataram*, *Dandi March Rolling Trophies* and *Gandhi Quiz*, etc. Pictorial exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi's life and philosophy and a library of Gandhiana is also proposed for the Buniyadi Vidyalayas.

The meeting was attended by the local MLA Shri Prakash Rai. Teachers, parents and intellectuals who were present on the occasion, put forward their views and suggestions on the issues.

Preparations for the centenary celebrations of the Champaran Satyagraha

The Samiti held a meeting to discuss the centenary celebrations of the Champaran Satyagraha that culminates in 1917. The Director, GSDS discussed the programmes with social workers, teachers of Buniyadi Vidyalayas and political leaders to initiate the celebrations through various socio-economic and educational activities.

Brindavan Darpan Patrika (newspaper) was released on this occasion. People present at the meeting included the *gram mukhia* (village chiefs), educators, social-political worker and intellectual of the region.

The following points were discussed:

1. Request the Department of Posts to issue a special commemorative stamp.
2. Request the Hon'ble Prime Minister to release the commemorative in a major function that could be organized in Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
3. Keeping in mind the historical importance of the Rajkiya Buniyadi Vidyalaya, Bettiah, Champaran (being the first Buniyadi Vidyalaya started by Mahatma Gandhi in Champaran & and now has been adopted by GSDS), develop a Mahatma Gandhi Interpretation Centre in line with the Interpretation Centre started in Varanasi.
4. Develop a similar Interpretation Centre in some historical place in Motihari.
5. Map different places visited by Mahatma Gandhi during Champaran Satyagraha and prepare plans to renovate these.
6. Develop travelling exhibition for taking them to different colleges and schools of the district
7. Organize children and youth conclaves as part of the Samiti's programme on 'Volunteerism for Constructive Work' to discuss Champaran Satyagraha focusing on how they can contribute to community and nation building.
8. Organize Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Lectures focusing on lives of Rajendra Prasad, Raj Kumar Shukla etc who have been closely associated with Gandhiji during Champaran Satyagraha.
9. Organize activities to promote Swachhta Abhiyan in the region throughout the year.
10. Extension of the initiatives under Srijan-Gandhi Smriti Education and Skill Development Centre.
11. Develop a theatre on the Champaran Satyagraha and take to different places.
12. Street plays to be organized on social evils to be in consultation with the District Administration.

Preparatory meeting as a prelude to the Champaran Satyagraha

The Samiti organized a meeting at the Kumbarbagh School Brindavan to plan the programmes for the upcoming Centenary Celebrations of the Champaran Satyagraha launched in the Indian soil by Mahatma Gandhi in 1917. The main focus of the celebration is the revived and establishment of true Gram Swaraj as envisaged by Mahatma Gandhi. The Samiti was represented by Smt. Geeta Shukla., Smt. Shashwati Jhalani and Sh. Manoj Kumar at the meeting.

The members present at the meeting urged that the villages need to be made self sufficient, well educated and the Buniyadi Schools founded by Gandhiji should be made more efficient. Many teachers and principals of the Buniyadi Schools of West Champaran participated in the meeting and came up with various practical suggestions and ideas to celebrate the Centenary of Champaran Satyagraha in a begetting manner.

They stressed on providing quality education to children and requested if the Samiti could intervene towards implementation of initiatives on sanitation, health and hygiene, skill development for the villagers.

After his return from South Africa in the year 1915, Mahatma Gandhi is seen here during the Champaran and Kheda Satyagraha - 1917-18.





Programmes for the Tribal People

Tana Bhagats Kala Sammelan organized

Chief Minister Shri Raghubar Das on March 12, 2016 announced that the family tree (vanshawali) of Tana Bhagats will be prepared from April and camps will be organised in the villages for this purpose. He announced that special surveys will be conducted to add the names of Tana Bhagats, whose names are not in the government records.

Shri Raghubar Das was addressing almost 300 Tana Bhagats during a programme on the



Glimpses from the Tana Bhagat Sammelan in progress.

“Thoughts of Gandhi – Tana Bhagat” at Vikas Bharti in the state capital as part of the programme organised by the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in association with Vikas Bharti on March 12-13, 2016 at Jharkhand.

During his address, the Chief Minister announced that a Tana Bhagat Welfare Board will be constituted, which will initiate an action plan for the development of Tana Bhagats in the state. He also said that the state government will facilitate the skill development to educated unemployed Tana Bhagat youths so that employment is created for them.

Apart from running residential schools for Tana Bhagats in Ranchi, Gumla, Lohardaga and Chatra districts, he announced that these schools will be renovated. The CM also announced that the Mahadani Ground of Bedo will be developed as a memorial for Mahatma Gandhi.

Addressing the gathering Shri Raghubar Das said that contribution of Tana Bhagats during the freedom movement was commendable. He assured that the state government is initiating moves to fulfil the long pending demands of Tana Bhagats and assured that many steps will be taken for the welfare of Tana Bhagats including name change of the legal heirs to their lands. Lands that had been wrongfully auctioned will be returned to the Tana Bhagats and they will be given possession of government GM land following proper verification.

The CM further said his government will strengthen the khadi institutions because Tana

Bhagats have a keen interest in khadi and are the followers of Mahatma Gandhi, who follow the path of truth and non-violence and therefore no form of injustices, should be meted to them.

The Chief Minister also felicitated the grandson of Tana Jatra Bhagat during the programme. Padmashree Shri Ashok Bhagat, MLA Shri Jitu Charan Ram, MLA Smt. Gangotri Kujur, Mayor Smt. Asha Lakra, IAS Shri K K Sone, Ms. Suchitra Sinha, director of state tourism, Dr K K Nag, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS and other dignitaries graced the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan said that present generation must know about the community who continued to upheld the lessons of Satyagraha and non-violence taught by the Mahatma and hoped that history textbooks will mention the role of Tana Bhagats in the non-violent freedom struggle, for future generation to remember their contribution.

Adivasi Kala Sangam in Mayurbhanj

The *Adivasi Kala Sangam Conference* was organised in Mayurbhanj the largest tribal district of Odisha by the GSDS in collaboration with Antyodaya Chetana Mandal on March 21-23at

the North Orissa University (NOU) to converge the new tribal student generation studying in the tribal, Anthropology and Department of



Dr. Girdhar Gomanga, former Chief Minister of Odisha displays his musical prowess at the Sangam in Mayurbhanj.

MSW (Master in Social Work) 400 participants from Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar, Koraput, Kandhamal which are tribal dominated districts of Odisha covering 10 (ten) tribal communities such as Santhals, Khadia, Juanga, Paudi Bhuyan, Kandha, Kolha, Bathudi, Kutia Kandhas, Lodha, Munda, Bhumija, Ho and Bhuyans participated for the three-day Sangam and showcased their rich cultural heritage.

Also an exhibition of the traditional dresses, drums and musical instruments and their living products were at display during the programme.

The conference focused on the issues and problems of the tribals, bio diversity, livelihood, cultural convergence and challenges and the social issues like witch craft, drug abuse like Handia, and language

The chief guest in the programme was the former Chief Minister of Odisha and seven times Member of Parliament and the former Tribal Minister of Government of India, Dr. Girdhar Gamanga. Other dignitaries included: Sh. Sanada Marandi, Honorable Deputy Speaker, Odisha Assembly; Shri Basant Bhai from Karigar Panchayat; Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS; Padmashree Tulasi Munda, Tribal Social Worker and Tribal Leader; Prof. Prafulla Kumar Mishra, Vice Chancellor, NOU; Prof. M. Himabindu, Chairman, P.G Council; Samai Juang, Village Head, Juangapirli, Gonasika; Shri Aditya Patnaik, Convener and Prof. Himabindu, Chairman, PG Council

Discussions on the problem of tribals on their land FRA, PESA, land rights and forest issues and specially the protection of the tribal cultural heritage and protection of bio diversity for sustainable livelihood formed part of the conference. Tribals from Panchayat leaders, Olchiki Santhali script writers, social leaders and development departments highlighted the benefits and entitlement related issues for the tribals with participatory discussions in groups.

Cultural programme by over 12 cultural groups was another highlight of the programme. For the participants, it was a moment of pride to see Dr. Gamanga leading the cultural troupe at the cultural programme in the evening and playing a non conventional instrument with other tribals.

The valedictory session was organized on March 23, 2016 that was attended by Dr. Gamanga, VC of NOU and tribal leaders.

Adivasi Janjati Kala Sangam in Kalimpong

The Samiti in association with Kalimpong Krishak Kalyan Sangathan (KKKS) organized an Adivasi Janjati Kala Sangam at Kalimpong, West Bengal from March 28-30, 2016. About 270 people



(Above): A participant shares her perspective of local issues, as guests (below), keenly listens.

from various Janjati took part in the programme. The participant Janjatis were Toto, Urao, Mech, Dukpa, Sherpa, Tamang, Lepcha, Limbu, Kambu Rai, Khas, Gurung, Newar, Bhujel etc. Among the dignitaries were Shri Bansant Singh from Karigar Panchayat/ Founder Siddagiri Karigar University, Dr Chanda Gurung, Gender Specialist, ICIMOD, Ms Yachana Rizal, Fashion Expert on Tribal handlooms/clothes and Smt. Geeta Shukla, Research Officer, GSDS. Shri A K Rai inaugurated the programme that began with an invocation by the Bhujel cultural group. Shri B K Chettri, Secretary

KKKS welcomed the participants and expressed his hope that the Sangam will bring out change in the lives of the Janjatis.

The keynote address was given by Smt Geeta Shukla, who referred to Mahatma Gandhi's vision on the tribal's socio-economic and cultural strength and that Gandhiji always upheld them for preserving their tradition. She proposed to construct a Mahatma Gandhi Statue, and hoped that a museum dedicated to hill tribes be set up.

Sri Basant Singh stressed to conserve the traditional knowledge of tribal community specially artisans. Dr Chanda Gurung mentioned the need to cope up with the changes and to protect, conserve the values nurtured by tribal womenfolk.

Miss Yachana Rizal a fashion expert who has taken the lead in promoting the tribal handlooms at Rome, said that world is recognizing the indigenous culture, especially the food, clothes and arts /crafts. She urged the tribal community to look into it and devise ways towards branding the handlooms at commercial level.

Shri A K Rai in his address hoped that the tribal communities get an international platform to not just showcase their cultural extravaganza, but they should be trained towards marketing their products. He also pleaded the different tribal communities to live in unity.

The other speakers during the Sangam were:

1. Sri Dhaniram Toto from "Toto Janjati", a vanishing tribe in India with merely 1570 Toto people living at present, stressed and urged the government to address the problem faced by Toto community;
2. Sri Sangay Dukpa, from "Dukpa Janjati" presented the case of Dukpa people along with the origins, food, arts & crafts, folk song and dance and different sustainable practices followed by the community;
3. Sri Samel Urao from "Urao Janjati" presented the Urao culture, foods and different sustainable practices followed by them;



Ethnic cultural presentations brought out the rich diversity of the tribes during the programme.

Cultural performances by different Janjati groups such as the Toto, Dupka, Urao were the highlight of the programme on the first day.

Day two, March 29, saw presentations by representatives from different tribal groups who shared the issues and concerns faced by them in their areas. The chief guest on this occasion was Swami Karyasiddheshwar Maharaj from Siddigiri Foundation. The presentations began with an invocation from the Khas Janjati. The other presentations were from: Limbu Janjati, the Tamang Janjati, the Lepcha Janjati, Khambu Raj Janjati. Newar Janjati, Bhujel Janjati.

Day three, March 30, which also was the concluding day of the three-day Sangam, began with a visit to the Lepcha Museum was organized. The day also saw the inauguration of the Siri Fest, a field event of the Sangam. (Siri, an indigenous cattle breed of Darjeeling Himalayan Region and a main economic mainstay for the hill tribes is on the verge of extinction.

Speakers present on the occasion necessitated the need for the promotion and protection of Siri cattle and development of A2 Milk and Agriculture for sustainable livelihoods of hill tribes. The speakers who included Maharajji, Shri Basant and Smt. Geeta reiterated the need for conservation and thereafter commercialization of traditional knowledge in the form of arts, crafts, food processing, handlooms, folk literature and instruments. Cultural performances by Limbu, Lepcha, Khas and Gurung Janjati were special highlight of the programme.



A *Bhumi Pujan* was performed by Sri Karyasiddheshwar Swamiji for construction of “Limbu Cultural and Linguistic School” at Pabringtar, sponsored by KKKS & Limbu community jointly.



Exhibition on handicrafts and local handmade products were put up for display during the programme.



Programmes at Mahatma Gandhi Interpretation Centre, Sewapuri, Varanasi

**Kasturba Gandhi Mahila Vidyapeeth
Intermediate College, Sewapuri, Varanasi**

The Samiti set up an Interpretation Centre at **Kasturba Gandhi Mahila Vidyapeeth, Sewapuri, Varanasi** for the dissemination of Mahatma Gandhi's message among the students of the area. The Interpretation Centre includes a permanent exhibition on Gandhi, a school library, workshops with students from time to time development of school theatre group, development of radio drama, to organize training programmes in vocations like paper work, tailoring, food preservation etc.

Swachhta Abhiyan organised

As part of the initiative with the *Kasturba Gandhi Mahila Vidyapeeth* Intermediate College, Sewapuri, Varanasi, a cleanliness programme involving students and teachers of the intermediate college was organized on May 16, 2016.



(Above): A participant shares her perspective of local issues, as guests (below), keenly listens.

The aim of this initiative would be to ensure the students and teachers take the lead in keeping the campus of the college clean and would now be taken up regularly. The students would also be

taking up the swachhta abhiyaan to surrounding areas of the college.

Inter-School Dandi March Rolling Trophy

The Samiti organised an *Inter-School Dandi March Rolling Trophy Competition* on November 6, 2011 at *Kasturba Mahila Vidyapeeth Intermediate College*, Sewapuri Varanasi on the theme "Nature has enough to satisfy everyone's need but not greed". About 1000 children from 14 different institutions of the district took part in the competition.

The competition, for both the junior, as well as the senior categories, brought to light the student's creativity through the medium of their essay as well as their art on the same theme.



(Above): Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan walks into the programme, as participating students at the Dandi March Rolling trophy wait for their prizes.

Director Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, attended the programme in Varanasi. Smt. Geeta Shukla, Research Officer, GSDS and Shri Rajdeep Pathak, Programme Executive accompanied the Director, GSDS on the occasion. Former Advisor, GSDS, Shri Basant also attended the programme.

On this occasion, a cultural programme was organised in which the students took part very enthusiastically. Senior Gandhian workers from the area, Secretary, Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, Sewapuri Branch, the school authorities, Principal, Dr. Anita Singh, Manager, Shri Santosh Kumar Singh and teachers also participated in a discussion on the same theme.

During the programme, the Director GSDS inaugurated the *Interpretation Centre* comprising the photographic exhibition on Gandhi's life and the library set up at the school premises.

The competition that was organised was judged by Mrs. Kalpana Srivastava, Smt. Pratibha Singh, Dr. Bhagwati Dhar Dubey, Mrs. Swarnalata Bhalla.

The prize winners in both the senior and junior category were: Priya Mishra and Puja Devi from Kasturba Mahila Vidyapeeth Intermediate College, Sewapuri and Kumkum and Suman Maurya respectively.

The other prizes were won by:

1. Ekta and Aman Kumar Maurya – Second Prize, Sr. Category
2. Jyoti Pandey and Archana Verma – Third Prize, Sr. Category
3. Priyanka Gupta and Pooja Benwanshi, - 1st Appreciation, Sr. Category
4. Adarsh Jaiswal and Jai Singh Patel – 2nd Appreciation, Sr. Category
5. Afreen bano and Dipendra Kumar – Second Prize – Jr. Category
6. Satyam Mishra and Vivek Patel – Third Prize, Jr. Category
7. Nandini Pushpakar and Sajeedin – 1st Appreciation, Jr. Category
8. Gyatri Maurya and Savitri Maurya – 2nd Appreciation, Jr. Category.

The Director along with former advisor to GSDS Shri Basant, Smt. Geeta Shukla and Shri Rajdeep Pathak also visited the other Interpretation Centres set up under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture. A visit to Uttar Pradesh Gandhi Smarak Nidhi was also organized where a meeting with Shri Lal Bahadur Rai was convened. Further a visit to some of the Buniyadi Vidyalyas in the area – that are in dilapidated condition – was also undertaken and it was felt that efforts should be made to work towards the improvement of the Vidyalyas.

Children of the Vidyalya partake in the Martyrdom Day Programme in Gandhi Smriti

About 50 children along with their Principal Smt. Anita Singh and teachers took part in the January 30, 2016 programme to mark the 68th Martyrdom Day of Mahatma Gandhi in Gandhi Smriti. During their participation, the children also took part in the ten-day Value Creation Camp organized by the GSDS where they besides learning new activities, displayed their creativity during the programme.

International Women's Day celebrated

About 650 girls from different colleges in and around Sewapuri took part in the celebrations to mark the International Women's Day on March 9, 2016 at Kasturba Mahila Vidyapeeth Intermediate College, Sewapuri Varanasi organized by the Vidyapeeth.

The celebrations saw the students raise issues related to safety of women, eve teasing, physical exploitation and denial of birth and education. Senior resource persons from the area, and principal of the Vidyapeeth Dr. Anita Singh were present on the occasion.

They also participated in a community shramdaan (cleanliness programme) as part of the Swachh Bharath Abhiyaan. Planting of tree saplings also marked the event.



Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan presents the winning team with the trophy.



Discussions/Dialogues/Seminars

Conference on “Education as a Basic Right of Humankind”

The Samiti in association with *Indialogue Foundation and Institute of Advanced Studies in Education, Jamia Milia Islamia* organized an international conference on “Education as a Basic



(Above): Participants at the conference on “Education as a Basic Right of Humankind” in Gandhi Darshan share their views.

Right of Humankind” from October 2-4, 2015. The inaugural programme was organized on October 2 in Jamia.

During the two days conference, the focus on Education as a Basic Right of Humankind and

the sub-themes related to it were dealt extensively by academics, researcher scholars and experts. All the paper presenters who spoke at the twelve sessions, in various ways dealt with the value of education in the Gandhian sense of enhancing the human capital.

The sessions were devoted to the relevance and significance of Gandhian Education in the present century, the enabling measures to make ‘Education as a basic right of humankind’ a reality, inclusive education to meet the challenges of gender and less privileged sections of society, technology in the service of education for all, the challenges confronting school education, higher education and adult education, holistic development of students through sports, music and health education, and last but not the least education for the promotion of peaceful coexistence and social harmony, factoring in the ethical problems before our present knowledge society.

The emphasis was to complement the learning of the three ‘R’s (reading, writing and arithmetic) with three ‘H’s (hand, head and heart). The core agreement underlying all the presentations was the



Children of Rydhun Cultural Academy presents a Kathak recital during the conference.

right to education can become a reality if education becomes truly transformational and promotes a healthy development of the individual, the nation and the world.

The speakers unanimously reiterated the ideas of the former UN Secretary General, Boutros Boutros-Ghali for a peaceful world order:

- The challenge of peace
- The challenge of poverty, which inter alia means the exclusion of more than half of the world who suffer from physical and economic deprivation
- The challenge of sustainable development and of environmental protection and preservation and
- The challenge of better world governance that looks at problems not in isolation but as problems of the whole of planet Earth.

The conference concluded with a valedictory session paneled by distinguished scholars including the chairperson of the session, eminent writer, Shri Ram Bahadur Rai followed by a cultural program.

National Workshop on Participation of Voluntary Organisations in Rural Development

The Samiti organised a two-day workshop on ***Participation of Voluntary Organisations in Rural Development*** in collaboration with CAPART and Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhni (RMP), Mumbai branch in Gandhi



Distinguished speakers at the national workshop in Gandhi Darshan.

Darshan from November 16-17, 2015, which was attended by over 150 representatives from 80 voluntary organisations of 25 states who attended the workshop.

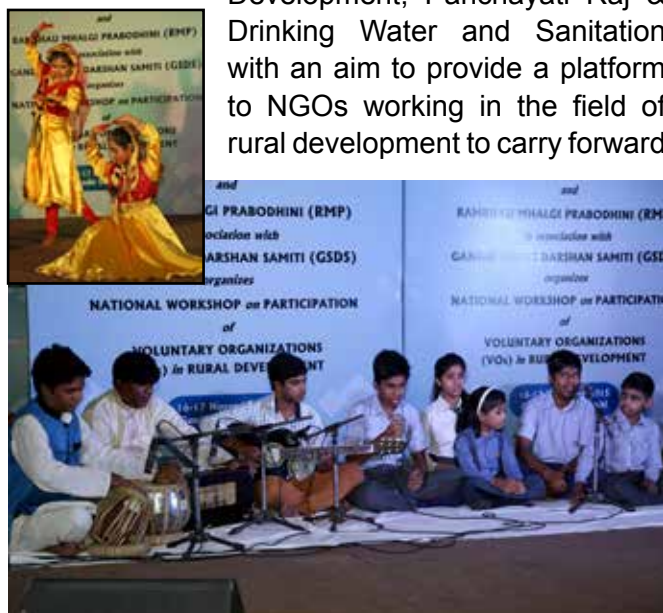


Speakers at the national workshop in Gandhi Darshan.

Both the days were divided into three sessions on each day in which the ways and means for the rural upliftment, the problems which emerge in the course of the work and the remedial measures for the same, were discussed and action plans were made accordingly.

Many distinguished people devoted to this cause attended the sessions and provided valuable inputs on the subject. Some of them were the Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development Ch. Birender Singh, Minister of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Sanitation and Drinking Water inaugurated the workshop. Others who attended and interacted with the participants included: Shri Sudharshan Bhagat, (MoS for Rural Development); Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, D.G. RMP; Shri M L Meena, D.G. CAPART. Representatives from the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development also took part in the deliberations. Shri C S Pandey, Director CAPART took a special session/workshop on 'The Art of Proposal Writing' for the young entrepreneurs. Dr. Vedabhyas Kundu, Programme Officer, GSDS made a presentation on "Gandhiji on Swachh Bharat" on the occasion which was followed by a question-answer session. Sh. Aditya Patnaik from Odisha, Shri Basantji former advisor to GSDS, representations from the North Eastern Region alongwith several other grassroots workers were felicitated on the occasion.

The workshops – during the two-day programme – focussed on various schemes and flagship programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj & Drinking Water and Sanitation with an aim to provide a platform to NGOs working in the field of rural development to carry forward



Cultural presentations were other highlights of the programme.

the various schemes in delivering the due benefits to the rural areas across the country.

A cultural programme organised as part of the occasion was another highlight of the programme. Group song performances by children from the *Ashique Ali Khan Art & Music Charitable Trust*; Kathak performance by children from *Shakuntalam Sangeet Vidyalaya*; *Chau* performances by Shri Triyan Pratibimbh; presentations of two plays – *Andh Koop* (on untouchability) by artistes from *Indu Arts Theatre and Film Society* and *Paigam* by *Virag Theatre* group kept the audiences hooked to their seats.

Another special attraction of the programme was a dance balled on *Gandhi and Ram* by Ms. Pratibha Singh from *Kala Mandali*. An infusion of Bengal's folk music and Sufi songs by Mr. Somu Mukherjee and Gaurav Banotra was a special highlight of the cultural programme.

Panel discussion on Citizenship as part of celebration of Constitution Day

The Samiti in association with *Build India Group* as a celebration to mark the 'Constitution Day' organised a panel discussion on "Citizenship" on November 26, 2015 in Gandhi Darshan.

Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha Shri A V Swamy, inaugurated the discussion attended by judges of the Supreme Court and High Court, members from the civil society, corporate houses and representatives from few schools in Delhi. The occasion also marked the launch of a unique signature campaign in Delhi to involve 30 lakh students and their parents for rejecting



(Inset): Director GSDS Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan felicitates Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Shri A V Swamy.

(Below): A pledge to uphold the Constitution in daily life is being administered during the programme.

violence in any form against the state and send a memorandum to the Prime Minister to support this cause.

Among those who attended the programme included: Shri Pramod Chawla, Trustee, NNFICRI, Justice Kailash Gambhir, former Judge, Delhi High Court, Shri Bhagwan Prakash, Advisor to the Election Commission of India, Shri Chetan Sharma, General Secretary, Confederation of RWA's of Delhi and NCR, Shri Anant Trivedi from Chetna, Shri Sangram Dhar, social worker, Shri Chaitanya Sahoo, Advocate, Shri Akash Kumar Nidhi, CEO Jaiespy Technology, Shri Biraja Mahapatra, President Build India Group, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS and others.

Meanwhile noted Gandhian Sh. A. V. Swamy, expressed sincere gratitude to Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi for declaring November 26th as the *Samvidhan Divas*, while urging him to involve all school & college students in the exercise being followed by Build India Group (BIG).

“If 30 lakh students of Delhi give a written commitment to be good citizens and reject violence in any form and their parents join such a move by approving it with their signatures, the number of participants involved for this cause shall be anywhere above 80 lakh people and that is the strength of this campaign. We will just start with Delhi as a pilot programme now and we intend that this should happen across the country”, Mahapatra said, adding, “If similar exercise happens across the country, it could be a huge peace campaign on terror and a model exercise in the world”.

Supporting this idea, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan said that the idea of BIG is on the basis of peace and nonviolence and, therefore, Gandhi Darshan is committed to make it a nationwide activity in all regional languages.

Nashabandi Se Sachha Swarajya (True Swaraj through Prohibition) – A Convention

The Samiti in association with the Dr. Rajendra Memorial Trust and Akhil Bharatiya Nashabandi Parishad (All India Prohibition Council), New Delhi organised a convention on ‘Prohibition’ on the theme *Nashabandi Se Sachha Swarajya (True Swaraj through Prohibition)* at Patna on December 6, 2015. Almost 500 delegates took part in the programme that was organised at Sadakat Ashram. Among those who were present on the inaugural programme included Justice Mridula Sharma; journalist Shri Avdesh Kumar, the Chairman of the AIPC, Shri Rajnish and the granddaughter of Shri Rajendra Prasad, Smt. Tara Singh.



Shri Rajnish Kumar, addressing the gathering during the convention.

Speakers at the convention reiterated the efforts of the leaders during the freedom struggle and after independence in leading a campaign against total prohibition that leads to moral degeneration. They unanimously applauded the initiative of the Bihar Government for deciding the ban on sale and consumption of liquor in the state beginning from April 1, 2016. The speakers felt that only with prohibition, can the energy of the youth of the country be generated towards national building.

They further urged the necessity to organise similar programmes in different parts of the country, which could channelize the youth towards constructive action in their community, society that would ultimately lead to the development of sound character.

Earlier the programme began by paying floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Rajendra Prasad.



Participants take part in an awareness rally on ill effects of consuming alcohol in Chennai.

A similar two-day awareness programme on ill-effects of consumption of alcohol and other intoxicants at Thakker Bapa Ashram in Chennai was organised in association with the Akhil Bharatiya Nashabandi Parishad (All India Prohibition Council - AIPC), New Delhi on December 10, 2015.

Discussion on Understanding Gandhi and Today's Youth at Kadamkuan

As a prelude to the *Champaran Satyagraha*, a discussion on Understanding Gandhi and Today's Youth was organised on January 30-31, 2016 at Kadamkuan, Patna, Bihar. The programme was organised in association with Bihar Hindi Sahitya Sammelan. Former Governor of Tripura and the renowned Gandhian, Prof. Siddeshwar Prasad

inaugurated the programme along with Justice Rajendra Prasad, who was the chief guest of the conference.

Justice Prasad said that Mahatma Gandhi knew that youth is the future of the nation, their physical and spiritual power needs a positive direction only.

The inaugural function was chaired by Dr Anil Sulabh who compared Gandhi with Maharshi Dadhichi (who made the supreme sacrifice, just as Gandhiji did.) 200 Students from the different colleges of the city took part in the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Siddeshwar Prasad said that Gandhiji was great philosopher, leader and thinker; everyone must read and learn from Gandhiji.

Dr. D. M Divakar, Director of *Anugraha Narayan Samaj Adhyayan Sansthan*, Shri Sushil Kumar Jha and other distinguished speakers from the area took part in the programme.

Pt. Rajkumar Shukla Memorial Lecture on the occasion of Kasturba Nirvan Diwas

“Mahatma Gandhi had realised that unless the women are involved in the struggle for independence, India could not achieve freedom. Through his wife Kasturba Gandhi, Mahatma Gandhi inspired women from Champaran to partake in the freedom struggle, by breaking the barriers of home. Not only this, Kasturba Gandhi had also inspired thousands of other women to actively participate in the freedom struggle across the length and breadth of the country”, said former Governor of Tripura and eminent Gandhian Prof. Siddeshwar Prasad, while delivering the *Pt. Raj Kumar Shukla Memorial Lecture* organised by the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti in collaboration with the Bihar Hindi Sahitya Sammelan at Patna on February 22, 2016 to mark the 72nd Nirvan Divas of Kasturba Gandhi.

While asserting that India cannot – and should never – forget the man, Pt. Rajkumar Shukla whose persistent efforts made Mahatma Gandhi visit Champaran and then decide on waging his first Satyagraha battle in the Indian soil, Prof. Prasad said, “We have to build a developed India”.

Dr. Anil Sulabh, President of Bihar Hindi Sahitya Sammelan who presided over the programme said that the Champaran incident was a turning point in the life of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, whose transformation began from there. “It is the Champaran struggle which ingrained in Gandhiji the philosophies of Khadi, Charkha, handicraft and the essence of sanitation, which became the basis of his constructive programme”.

The other distinguished speakers on the occasion were Prof. Tara Sinha, granddaughter of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, eminent writer Dr. Usha Kiran Khan, Chairperson of National Commission of Protection of Child Rights, Smt. Nisha Jha, eminent litterateur Shri Ram Updesh Singh Videha, Dr. Sankar Prasad, Dr. Vinod Kumar Mangalam and others. The GSDS was represented by Smt. Geeta Shukla, Research Officer, Smt. Shashwati Jhalani, Librarian and Shri Manoj.

Two-day dialogue-cum-awareness on Prohibition

The GSDS in collaboration with Sri Krishna Institute of Public Administration, Govt. of Jharkhand organised a two-day dialogue-cum-awareness on *Prohibition* at Ranchi, Jharkhand on February 5-6, 2016. Eminent Gandhian Prof. Ramji Singh, who was present on the occasion, spoke on the *Gandhian approach to Prohibition*. Among others who were present on the occasion included: Dr. Sanjay Singh, Joint Director, SKIPA, Ranchi; Prof. Prakash Oraon, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director GSDS.

The different issues that were discussed on the occasion were:

- *State Policy on Prohibition* conducted by members from the Excise Commission
- *Gandhian Approach to Prohibition* – Prof. Ramji Singh
- *Traditional Use of Liquor* and its limitation among tribal people – Prof. Prakash Oraon
- *Economics of Prohibition* – Director General, SKIPA, Shri Sudhir Prasad (I.A.S.)
- *Social Consciousness about Prohibition* – Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan



(Above): Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan gets ready to felicitate Shri Ramji Singh (second from left);

(Below) : An awareness rally from SKIPA to Mahatma Gandhi statue at Morabadi to highlight issues of ill effects of alcoholism.

Another highlight of the programme was an awareness rally from SKIPA to Mahatma Gandhi statue at Morabadi. The awareness rally aimed towards making the people realise the ill-effects of consumption of alcohol, and other intoxicants, was flagged off by Prof. Ramji Singh. Participants at the rally carried banners, placards, etc as part of the endeavour. Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan also took part in the rally with great zeal and enthusiasm.

Two-day dialogue on “Judicial System – A Gandhian Approach”

The two-day programme on “Dialogue Judicial System- A Gandhian Approach” was organised by the Samiti in collaboration with National University of Study and Research in Law (NUSRL) on February 22-23, 2016 as a tribute to mark the 72nd Nirvan Diwas of Kasturba Gandhi. Shri Amar Kumar Bauri, Minister of Revenue, Registration & Land Reforms, Tourism, Art, Culture, Sports & Youth Affairs, Government of Jharkhand, was the chief guest on the occasion.

Dr. Jitu Charan Ram, MLA, Jharkhand State Legislative Assembly, Shri Rajiv Ranjan, Chairman, Bar Council of Jharkhand and Dr. Alope Kumar Sengupta, Registrar, NUSRL Ranchi. Prof. B C Nirmal, Vice-Chancellor of NUSRL and Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director, Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti, New Delhi, were present on the occasion. Students of LL.B. first year, students of LL.M. final semester, Ph.D. researchers and members of the faculty, along with media fraternity were present during the programme.



Distinguished gathering at the inaugural function of the two-day dialogue on Judicial System at NUSRL in Ranchi.

Delivering the inaugural address of the two-day dialogue, Shri Amar Kumar Bauri laid stress on the powerful message of non-violence as espoused by Mahatma Gandhi and hoped that humanity lives in peace.

Dr. Jitu Charan Ram, articulated how silly reasons initiate prolonged litigation in the court and how fault-lines in the administration of justice drag the same for years and sometimes for decades. He emphasized over Gandhian values in settlements of disputes.

Shri Rajiv Ranjan spoke about plea-bargaining as a new package in criminal procedure, which was emerged from Gandhian principle of peaceful settlement of disputes.

Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, reminded the audience on the multidimensional personality of Mahatma Gandhi. As a lawyer, Gandhi did pursue only one brief in life – that of truth and nonviolence in public life. While exploring diverse side of Gandhi as political philosopher, Sri Gyan also talked about

the objective of this programme was to convey the message of Gandhi to the next generation.

Earlier, delivering the welcome address, Prof. B C Nirmal, mentioned the widespread gap between legal education and law practice in India under the common law legacy. He also highlighted the inbuilt fallacy in the process of dispute settlement in the court of law. In course of his deliberation, he recalled 'Hind Swaraj', as one among the most celebrated works of Gandhiji and its contribution to value education as integral part of legal education.

Day one saw discussions on two important themes as under:

1. **Mediation and Pre-Bargaining – The Gandhian Way**, chaired by Shri Rajiv Ranjan, Chairman, Jharkhand State Bar Council.
2. **Discussion on 'Delay and Denial'**, chaired by Hon'ble Justice Vikramaditya Prasad, Retd. Judge, High Court.

Day two, February 23 began with a discussion on **Gandhian Values and Ethics**, chaired by Prof. A A Khan, Former Vice-Chancellor, Ranchi University. The other speakers included, Shri Basant, from the Karigar Panchayat, Mrs. Debjani Roy, Head of Department, Geography, Nirmala College Ranchi. Interaction with the participants on the role of Kasturba Gandhi as a symbol of women empowerment formed an integral part of this session.

The fourth session on: **Establishing a social system based on equity, justice and good conduct with reference to Gandhi's Concept of Social Justice** was chaired by Prof. (Dr.) B C Nirmal, with speakers Shri L N Bhagat, Former Vice-Chancellor, Ranchi University and Mrs. Rashmi Mala Sahu, Head of Department, Political Science, Nirmala College, Ranchi. This session gave a broad overview to the participants and inculcated the interest on the principles of Gandhiji and his way of working.

The fifth session themed on **Gandhi as an Advocate** was chaired by Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Director, GSDS

The chief guest of the Valedictory session was Hon'ble Justice Vikramaditya Prasad, Retd Judge, Patna High Court. The guest of honour was Shri George John, Vice-Chancellor. Present on the occasion were Prof. (Dr) B C Nirmal, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan, Shri N D Guru. Discussion on importance of truth, non-violence and other values in present day judicial system formed the essence of the valedictory session.

Panel discussion on "A Gandhian Non-Violent movement for a non-violent culture of development"

The "Save Ganga & Save Himalaya" meeting-cum-panel discussion was organized by GSDS in collaboration with the National Women's Organization, Pune and Chinmaya Mission, New Delhi on March 12, 2016 on the occasion of the 86th Anniversary of the historic Dandi March. The

other organizers were: Ramamani B.K.S. Iyengar Yoga Institute, Pune, Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti, Delhi, Mokshada, Delhi; Khadi & Village Industries Commission Gramodyog and Viniyog Parivar, Mumbai and Sai Freight Private Ltd, Mumbai.



The participants included: Smt. Rama Rauta, Founder & Convener, Save Ganga Movement; Smt Tara Gandhi Bhattacharyajee,

Speakers at the 'Save Ganga Movement' programme in Gandhi Darshan.

Chairperson, Save Ganga Movement and former VC GSDS; Prof A.K. Gosain, HOD, Civil Engineering IIT, Delhi & Member of Consortium of 7IITs Preparing the NGRBMP; Shri Paritosh Tyagi, Former Chairman, Pollution Control Board, Govt. of India; Parampujya Swami Nikhilanandaji, Regional Head, Chinmaya Mission, New Delhi; Parampujya Acharya(Dr.) Sri Lokesh Muni, President, Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti, New Delhi; and others.



Sharing of ideas for saving the River Ganga came during the discussions by resource persons from different parts of the country.

Recommendations:

1. An Act is needed for National River Ganga like the National Flag Act;
2. It has to be ensured that there is zero discharge of pollution into Ganga;
3. Rejuvenating the Ganga is doing the river much healthier than making it aviral / nirmal;
4. Excessive withdrawal of groundwater lowers the water table, which reduces base flow and may even reverse the direction of flow;
5. Recharge groundwater to increase base flow in the river.
6. Only 30% of water is utilised in flood irrigation, which can be increased to 70 or 75%. This will save water, reduce demand and make water available in river. Irrigation consumes over 80% of water drawn from the river.
5. Quantity and quality have to be addressed together.
7. Pollution has converted small rivers into dirty drains. Keeping them clean will automatically clean the main river.
7. 45% of area of Delhi is unsewered, much of it is served with water.
8. Inland Navigation Act has been passed by Parliament on 09 March 2016 in less than 2 years of the formation of present government but River Regulation Zone has not been notified in more than last 10 years though encroachment on Yamuna is continuing and disaster at Kedarnath has opened everybody's eyes in June 2013.

9. We have National Environment Policy and National Water Policy. We need National River Policy. Ganga rejuvenation and creation of national waterway on Ganga are being planned as independent programmes and in some ways in conflict with each other. Policy will resolve such conflicts.
10. River development is not river bank development. River development should improve the health of the river.
11. Exploit self-purifying capacity of the river by putting treated wastewater in the rivers.
12. There is high deterioration in Ganga water quality right from Haridwar onward and that the water is totally un-potable right from Rishikesh onward. This he pointed out is also due to shortage of water.
13. We must promote dry toilet. A vacuum based system can be evolved to process the night soil which can be converted into organic manure or methane to use. Digest faeces with ash and bacteria and when container is full, transport and use as manure.
14. The Ashrams at places like Haridwar, Allahabad, Kashi and other places must treat their own sewage, besides must follow the rain water harvesting parallel to sewage management, to keep environment more eco-friendly and water recharging of soil.

Treated or untreated sewage and industrial waste must not be discharged into the rivers, and sewage must be converted into valuable manure for organic farming, which should be promoted in a massive way for decreasing the non-point sources of pollution of rivers from agricultural run-off into the rivers and also for maintaining soil fertility, checking the groundwater degradation, reducing water requirement of crops, producing health-friendly food, etc, was the firm recommendation of Save Ganga Movement and also of the Consortium of Seven IITs' Ganga River Basin Management Plan (GRMBP).

State-level Workshop on Capacity Building of Elective Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)

The Samiti organized a *State-level Workshop on Capacity Building of Elective Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)* in Uttar Pradesh in collaboration with Association of Voluntary Agencies for Rural Development (AVARD) at UP Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, Gandhi Bhawan, Lucknow.



Shri B. Mishra, General Secretary, AVARD, felicitating one of the participants during the workshop in Lucknow.

The main objectives of the workshop included imparting up-to-date knowledge about the status of Panchayati Raj institutions in UP and specific position of women in it. Besides, making them aware of their rights and responsibilities for their active participation in the decision-making process at various levels and boosting up their confidence to play a lead role. 153 representatives of PRIs/voluntary organisations apart from some resource persons and guests took part in the programme.

The inaugural session was chaired by Shri P.M. Tripathi, President, AVARD and Shri Bharat Bhushan was guest of honour. The introduction to the workshop was given by Shri B Mishra, General Secretary AVARD.

While delivering the key note address, Shri Tripathi said that after the independence of the country one tier Gram Panchayats were introduced and 1/16th of the total land revenue received was shared with them. Referring to pre-British days he said that villages used to take up community work on their own.

In his address Shri Bharat Bhushan emphasized that women in Panchayati Raj should not be treated in isolation. He mentioned the example of the programme for empowerment of rural women being implemented by PANI in nine districts of Uttar Pradesh in which more than 6000 women are involved.

The first and second session was on ***Constitutional Position and Role of women in Restructured Panchayati Raj***. The session was chaired by Dr. Saroj Pandey.

The third working session was on ***Participation of Women in PRIs: Present Situation***. The session was chaired by Shri Bharat Bhushan.

The fourth working session was on ***Underlining the Difficulties in participation and Training Needs of Women in PRIs: Group Discussion***. Shri Devi Prasad Gupta facilitated the process of Group formation and Shri Girijesh Pandey, Shri Rajdeo Chaturvedi and Dr. Jitendra Chaturvedi facilitated discussions of one group each.

The valedictory session was co-chaired by Dr. B Mishra and Shri Sameer Banarjee. Dr. Mishra, encouraged the participants from voluntary organisations to follow-up the process of capacity building of elected representatives in their area of operation. While addressing the participants he cited the views of Jain Muni Tulsi about women. According to him women are Triveni (confluence) of Mamta (affection), Samata (equality) and Kshamata (capabilities). They should not remain only like Laxmi and Sarswati but also become Durga when needed for the good of society.



State-level Workshop on Capacity Building of Elective Representatives of Panchayati Raj Institutions in progress.



Book Fairs and Exhibitions

Book Fair at Rajdhani College, Delhi University

The Samiti took part in a day-long book fair at Rajdhani College, Delhi University on September 23, 2015 as part of the celebrations to mark the centenary of the return of Mahatma Gandhi to India from South Africa. Prasar Bharti and Rajdhani College, Delhi University organised a dialogue on “*Manavta Aur Shanti Ke Pratik Gandhi ji*”

Book Exhibition at Vishwa Yuvak Kendra

The Samiti took part in a book exhibition at Vishwa Yuvak Kendra on October 28, 2015 with books on and by Mahatma Gandhi and the publications of the GSDS. Ms. Rachna and Ms. Rita coordinated the book fair. There was an overwhelming response from the participants at the book exhibition.

Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, also organised a national seminar on “Gandhi Zinda Hai” with the objective to gauge the level of understanding of Gandhian philosophy by today’s youth, their views on how they plan to implement his philosophies in their day-to-day life and their suggestions on removing the hindrances faced by them in the implementation of Gandhian philosophy in the present context.

Inauguration of Exhibition on “Mohan Se Mahatma” in Gandhi Samadhi Rajghat

The Exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi entitled *Mohan Se Mahatma* developed by Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti containing 32 panels describing important events from the life of the Father of Nation



(Above): H.H. Shri Murari Bapu alongwith the Hon'ble Minister of Culture, Dr. Mahesh Sharma at the inauguration of the exhibition - ‘Mohan se Mahatma’ in Rajghat. Also seen in the picture is Hon'ble Minister of State for Urban Development, Shri Babul Supriyo offering tributes to the Mahatma.

was inaugurated on January 30, 2016 in Gandhi Samadhi Rajghat by the Union Minister of Culture Dr. Mahesh Sharma and Minister of State for Urban Development, Shri Babul Supriyo along with Shri Murari Bapuji at a special function at Rajghat. The exhibition has been designed and developed

by the Exhibition Department of GSDS under the supervision of Research Officer Mrs. Geeta Shukla. Other senior officials of the Ministry of Urban Development were present at the inaugural function.

- **Inauguration of Exhibition on “Prohibition” in All India Prohibition Council (Akhil Bharatiya Nashabandi Parishad), Tughlakabad**

The Samiti had also set up an exhibition on different aspects of “Prohibition” in association with the All India Prohibition Council (AIPC). Artist Shri Salil Das has drawn about 40 posters on “Prohibition” providing details of the ill-effects of all intoxicants. The exhibition was inaugurated at the headquarters of the AIPC on January 31, 2016 by religious leader Murari Bapu. Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan and President of AIPC, Shri Rajnish Kumar were present at the inaugural ceremony. The



H.H Shri Murari Bapu along with other dignitaries and Director GSDS viewing the exhibition on “Prohibition” at AIPC New Delhi.

exhibition has become a permanent feature of the AIPC, and has been gifted to the AIPC by the GSDS.

- **Exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi and his life at the Kasturba Mahila Vidyapeeth Intermediate College Sewapuri, Varanasi**

The Samiti set up an Interpretation Centre at Kasturba Gandhi Mahila Vidyapeeth, Sewapuri, Varanasi for the dissemination of Mahatma Gandhi’s message among the students of the area. The Interpretation Centre includes a permanent exhibition on Gandhi, a school library, workshops with students from time to time development of school theatre group, development of radio drama, to organize training programmes in vocations like paper work, tailoring, food preservation etc.



Exhibition developed by GSDS in display at the Mahatma Gandhi Interpretation Centre in Kasturba Mahila Vidyapeeth Intermediate College, Sewapuri, Varanasi.

- **Exhibition on Mohan to Mahatma inaugurated at Manipur**

The Samiti developed an exhibition on the theme – **Mohan to Mahatma** consisting of 25 panels for the Kasturba Gandhi Institute for Development. The exhibition covered important events from the life of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi and his evolution as a Satyagrahi, a preacher and practitioner of non-violence and his role in the national struggle



Dr. K Sushila, Director Art & Culture, and Prof. Ksh. Bimola Devi (Retd) Pol. Sc. Dept. M.U. at the exhibition - “The Life of Mahatma Gandhi’s Mobile Exhibition Panels” in KGNMT Manipur.

for independence. It was developed by Smt. Geeta Shukla, Research Officer with the assistance of Smt. Shashwati Jhalani, Librarian. The design and art work was done by Shri Shivdutt and Shri Pankaj.



Miscellaneous Programmes

Meeting with school teachers/coordinators for Gandhi Jayanti Programme

A meeting was convened on August 18, 2015 with teachers and coordinators from different schools and institutions of Delhi and NCR towards finalization of the dates for the rehearsals for the musical training programme in Gandhi Darshan. The meeting was organized in view of the forthcoming Gandhi Jayanti celebrations in Gandhi Smriti, in which almost 400 participate by paying a musical tribute to the Father of the Nation. 14 institutions have confirmed their participation. Also about 80 children from the two Buniyadi Vidyalayas in Brindavan and Sirisia are taking part in the programme this year.

Hindi Pakhwara organized

The Samiti organized the Hindi Pakhwara in both its campuses in Gandhi Smriti and Gandhi Darshan from September 1-14, 2015. The staff and other working members of the Samiti actively took part in various competitions that were organized during the period. The competitions that were organized included:

- *Shrutlekh* (Dictation)
- *Kavita Lekhan* (poetry writing)
- *Nibandh* (Essay)



Staff of GSDS participating during the Hindi Pakhwara celebrations in GSDS.



A workshop on the use of the Hindi language in office work was conducted by Shri Goraknath, former Director, Rajbhasha during this period. He gave valuable advice to the staff on proper use of Hindi in office work. Earlier Director GSDS welcomed Shri Goraknath ji and appealed to the staff to maximize Hindi in day-to-day office work.

The prize distribution of the competition is scheduled to be held on October 12, 2015 in Gandhi Darshan.

Above: Prize distribution by Shri Ramesh Sharma ji; and Below: Shri Gorak Nath being felicitated by Director GSDS, Shri Dipanker Shri Gyan.

Rehearsals for October 2, 2015

About 400 children from 16 institutions took part in the rehearsals as a preparation for the musical tribute to Mahatma Gandhi as part of the Gandhi Jayanti celebrations. The rehearsals were conducted in Gandhi Darshan and Gandhi Smriti respectively by Shri Sudhanshu Bahuguna of Swar Trishna.

The rehearsals began from September 11, as a tribute to the first satyagraha launched by Ghandhiji

in South Africa on September 11, 1906. The day also marked the 120th birth anniversary of Acharya Vinoba Bhave. Further rehearsals were conducted on September 22, 26, 29, 30 and October 1, 2015. The participating institutions included: *Rashtriya Buniyadi Vidyalaya, Kumarbagh, Vrindavan*



Shri Sudhanshu Bahuguna conducting the rehearsals for Gandhi Jayanti programme in Gandhi Darshan along with Shri Kuldeep Kumar on the Tabla.

Ashram, Bettiah, West Champaran; Rashtriya Buniyadi Vidyalaya, Sirisia, West Champaran; Bapa Ashram Residential Primary School, Harijan Sevak Sangh; Kasturba Balika Vidyalaya, Ishwar Nagar; Rashtriya Virjananda Andh Kanya Sr. Sec. School, Vikaspuri; Government Sarvodaya Co-ed. Sr. Sec. School, Possangipur; Kat-katha, Arsh Market, New Delhi; Jaspal Kaur Public School, Shalimar Bagh; Bharat National Public School, Ram Vihar; Navyug School, Laxmibai Nagar; G. P. Public School, Dilshad Colony; Kendriya Vidyalaya, Rohini; Sun Valley International School, Ghaziabad; Sulabh Public School, Mahavir Enclave; The Shriram Millennium School, Faridabad and St. Teresa School, Ghaziabad.

Charkha Demonstration at Ahlcon International School

Shri Yatender and Ms. Renu of GSDS represented the Samiti at an event organized by the Ahlcon International School, Mayur Vihar during September 2015 as a prelude to the Gandhi Jayanti Celebrations where they besides interacting with the children on the life of Mahatma Gandhi, also demonstrated charkha spinning to the children. The children were not only excited to see the live demonstration, many of them, also tried their hand at spinning the wheel. About 500 children witnessed the demonstration.

Charkha demonstration at The Foundation School

Ms. Renu and Mr. Manish had represented the Samiti in The Foundation School at Moolchand, New Delhi for a charkha spinning demonstration to the students of the school on October 1, 2015. The total number of students who took part in this was thirty. Most of the children saw the charkha for the first time and tried their hands on the spinning wheel.

Interactions with Gandhian Fraternity

An interactive programme was organized with staff and members of different Gandhian organizations of Delhi on October 3, 2015. About 300 people took part in this interaction. The Secretary, Pratinidhi, Members and others took part in the interactive programme. Among those who were present included: Shri Laxmi Das, Seretary, Harijan Sevak Sangh, Shri Uttam Sinha, Secretary Gandhi Peace Foundation, Km. Kusum Bahen from the Acharya Kakasaheb Kalelkar Samiti, Shri Ramesh Sharma, Dr. Ramesh Bharadwaj, Shri Ramesh Sharma, Shri Basant bhai, Shri Ashok Sharan, Shri Rajnish Kumar, Secretary, Gandhi Samadhi, Rajghat and others.

Vigilance Awareness Week Observed

The Samiti observed the "Vigilance Week" in Gandhi Darshan from October 24-31, 2015. Director GSDS, Mr. Dipanker Shri Gyan administered the pledge to all the working staff of the Samiti on October 31, 2015 at a small function in Gandhi Darshan. Vigilance Awareness



Staff of GSDS taking the pledge as part of the 'Vigilance Awareness Week'.

Week should be used as an occasion to highlight awareness about effective preventive measures undertaken through system improvements and use of information technology to fight corruption. The pledge read:



"We the public servants of India, do hereby solemnly pledge that we shall continuously strive to bring about integrity and transparency in all spheres of our activities. We also pledge that we shall work unstintingly for eradication of corruption in all spheres of lie. We shall remain vigilant

and work towards the growth and reputation of our organisation. Through our collective efforts, we shall bring pride to our organisations and provide value based service to our countrymen. We shall do our duty conscientiously and act without fear or favour".

Speaking on the occasion, Director GSDS said: "We must not just read the pledge, but also implement it in our day-to-day life. We feel proud that as an organisation, we have a clear report even from the CAG regarding our activities".

Children took part in musical rehearsal for Martyrdom Day programme

The Samiti organised the first musical rehearsal for almost 340 children drawn from 12 different institutions in Delhi in Gandhi Darshan on December 23, 2015. The rehearsal was organised as part of the preparations to commemorate the 68th Martyrdom Day of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi to be organised in Gandhi Smriti on January 30, 2016. The children represented the following institutions:

- i. Harijan Sevak Sangh
- ii. Rani Dutta Arya Vidyalaya
- iii. Chandra Arya Vidya Mandir
- iv. Little Flowers Public School
- v. Akshaya Pratishthan

- vi. Laxman Public School
- vii. Jaspal Kaur Public School
- viii. Kendriya Vidyalaya, Rohini
- ix. Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan
- x. Happy School
- xi. Rashtriya Virjanand Andh Kanya Vidyalaya
- xii. Pardarshitha.



Children partake in the rehearsals for observance of Martyrdom Day.

This year, at least 100 children from the Himalayan Buddhist Council, Himachal Pradesh; Kasturba Mahila Vidyapeeth Intermediate College, Sewapuri, Varanasi; and Acharya Kakasaheb Kalelkar Samiti, Nandurbar Maharashtra will be participating in the programme.

Srijan Music Choir Group leads Inter-faith prayer meet at Gandhi Samadhi Rajghat

The *Srijan* choir group of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti led the *bhakti sangeet* at the inter-faith prayer meet organized by the Institute for Gender Justice and Nirbhay Gram at Gandhi Samadhi Rajghat, as part of the commemoration to mark the International Women's Day on March 8, 2016. Songs of Kabir, Tulsidas resonated in the lawns of Gandhi Samadhi as religious leaders from different religious faiths joined in prayer meet.



Regular Programmes/Activities

The regular programmes undertaken are:

- Guiding visitors to the Gandhi Smriti and Gandhi Darshan Museum
- Interactions with children with special abilities in Gandhi Smriti and Gandhi Darshan
- Charkha spinning, and
- Film shows on Gandhi, freedom movement and national leaders.



Other regular programmes are:

Srijan–Gandhi Smriti Skill Development Centre



Srijan imparts vocational training to children through its regular creative activities like tailoring, embroidery, pottery making, mime and music, besides the vocational courses recognised by National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS). School drop outs and the underprivileged section of the society are the prime beneficiaries of these vocational programmes.



Srijan Pottery and Tailoring Unit in Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat.



Library and Documentation

In conformity with the objective of the Samiti to organise and preserve books, photographs, films, documents, leading to better understanding of Mahatma Gandhi's work and thought, a Library and Documentation Centre has been set up.

The library has a collection of nearly 12,000 books on Gandhiji's life and thought, art, culture, history, economics, politics, religion, archaeology, including reference books, namely World Atlas, Encyclopedias and Dictionaries. There is a special section for children. It also subscribes to various journals and magazines on a regular basis and caters to the needs of scholars, research fellows and students. Many new books were added during the year.

At the Documentation Centre – an inherent part of the Library – press-clipping files are being maintained on different topics such as Gandhi, Women, Children, Youth, Crime against Women, Environment, Indo-Pak relations, Communalism, International affairs. In an effort to strengthen the Documentation Centre, several other topics have been added this year. The process of digitalization of the library is in progress.





Visitors

Belarus Foreign Affairs Minister Vladimir Makei visits Gandhi Smriti

H.E. Mr. Vladimir Makei, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus who is on a state visit to India visited Gandhi Smriti, the site of the martyrdom of Mahatma Gandhi on April 15, 2015 and offered his tributes at the Martyrs Column. During the visit – that lasted over one hour – the minister also visited the room in which Mahatma Gandhi lived in the erstwhile Birla House for the last 144 days of his life, besides going through the museum.



Rajdeep Pathak, Programme Executive GSDS, explaining H.E. Mr. Vladimir Makei, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus the significance of the Martyrs Column during the latter's visit.

Mr. Vladimir Makei was accompanied by H.E. Mr. Vitaly Prima, Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus in New Delhi, Mr. Andrei Bushilo, Head of Organisation Work Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Belarus and PA to the foreign minister; and

Mr. Nikita Sorokin, Attache, Asia, Australia and Oceania Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Belarus.

Expressing his thoughts about the visit, Mr. Vladimir wrote: "Mahatma Gandhi is the Man of the Earth. He was really a Living Truth. I wish the people of India, peace, prosperity and well-being".

- A delegation of fifty members from various countries organized by Seven City Tour had visited the museum on May 6, 2015.
- A delegation of ten German teachers and Principal had visited the museum on May 14, 2015. This tour was organized by K.R. Mangalam School as part of their exchange program on *Understanding Gandhi*.

Visit of Korean Speaker of the Assembly of the Republic of Korea to Gandhi Smriti

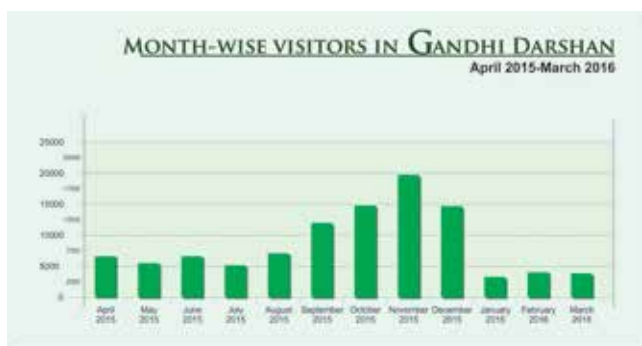
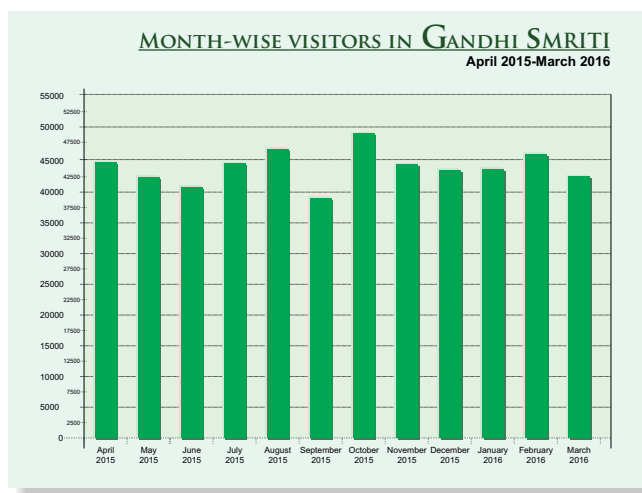
A 20-member delegation visited led by Mr. E H Jung, Speaker of the Assembly of the Republic of Korea – who was on a State visit to India – visited Gandhi Smriti on May 8, 2015.

Dr. Sailaja Gullapalli and Ms. Sushmita Bharali showed the delegation the Gandhi Smriti Museum. Mr. Jung was accompanied by his wife spouse Kim Nam Hee. The delegation offered tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and also visited the Gandhi Smriti museum.

Other visitors to GSDS:

1. Mr. Ashok Chandra Panda, Minister of Tourism & Culture, Government of Odisha, had visited Gandhi Smriti museum on June 14, 2015
2. Parliamentary delegation organized by the Lok Sabha Secretariat had visited June 17, 2015.
3. Mr. Noomane Fehri, Honourable Minister of Telecommunications and Digital Economy, Tunisia had visited Gandhi Smriti on June 28, 2015. He was accompanied by a high profile delegation from The Embassy of Tunisia.
4. His Excellency, Burak Akcapar, Ambassador of Turkey along with his spouse had visited the museum on June 28, 2015.
5. The Chairperson of Central Election Commission of Georgia, Mr Tamar Zhvania visited Gandhi Smriti on July 12, 2015 and paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi.
6. A delegation comprising of thirty two members from various countries organized by the Ministry of Overseas, Indian Affairs had visited the museum on 28th August.
7. A delegation headed by Japanese State Minister of Infrastructure had visited the museum on 14th August, 2015.
8. A large number of students from 11 different schools in Delhi and NCR and that from over ten colleges visited Gandhi Smriti during the month of August 2015.
9. Ninety five officers from National Defence College had visited the museum on 15th September, 2015.
10. A delegation comprising of fifteen members from various countries had visited the museum on 23rd September, 2015. This visit was organised by Ministry of External Affairs in association with KIIT group of colleges.
11. A delegation comprising of twenty members from Japan had visited the museum on 30th September, 2015.
12. Ten members from embassy of Korea had visited the museum on 13th October, 2015.
13. A delegation comprising of five members from Malaysia had visited the museum on 13th October, 2015. This visit was organised by Ministry of External Affairs.
14. Japanese Minister of Infrastructure had visited the museum along with an eight member delegation from The Embassy of Japan, on 14th October, 2015.
15. Mr. Taieb Baccouche, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tunisia had visited the museum on 27th October, 2015. He was accompanied by a delegation comprising of five members from The Embassy of Tunisia.
16. A delegation comprising of twenty officials from Lok Sabha and State Legislature Secretariat had visited the museum on 5th November, 2015.
17. A seven member delegation headed by the former President of Chile, Mr. Eduardo Frei R-T had visited the museum on 22nd November, 2015.
18. A thirty member delegation from the youth wing of Soka Gakkai International Wing had visited the museum on 27th November, 2015.
19. Major General Amir Eshel, Commander of Israeli Air and Space Forces, had visited the museum on 30th November, 2015. He was accompanied by a twelve member delegation of various defence personals.
20. A three member delegation from The Embassy of Germany along with a German writer of Indian origin had visited the museum on 2nd December, 2015.
21. A five member delegation from The Embassy of South Africa had visited the museum on 4th December, 2015.
22. A thirty seven member delegation comprising of architects, archaeologists and academicians from Sri Lanka had visited the museum on 8th December, 2015.
23. Deputy Minister of Taiwan, Mr. Bruce J. D. Linghu, along with a seven member

- delegation from The Embassy of Taiwan had visited the museum on 8th December, 2015.
24. Diaspora Youth Delegation comprising of thirty two members had visited the museum on 11th December, 2015.
 25. A delegation comprising of twenty members from North East had visited the museum on 18th December, 2015. This visit was organized by the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies, Delhi.
 26. The Ambassador of USA, Mr. Richard Verma, had visited the museum on 19th December, 2015.
 27. A five member delegation from National Election Commission of Mozambique had visited the museum on 6th January, 2016.
 28. A five member delegation from the Embassy of Republic of Korea had visited the museum on 14th January, 2016.
 29. A six member delegation headed by Mr. Kim Jae Hong from Korea Trade Investment Promotion Agency had visited the museum on 15th January, 2016.
 30. A delegation comprising of hundred and twenty members from National Defence College had visited the museum on 16th January, 2016.
 31. Deputy Speaker of South Korea had visited the museum along with a seven member delegation from the Embassy of Republic of Korea on 19th January, 2016.
 32. A seven member delegation from British High Commission had visited the museum on 3rd February, 2016.
 33. A South Korean delegation headed by Co Chairman and Secretary General of IAPP, South Korea had visited the museum on 10th February, 2016. He was accompanied by officials of The Embassy of Republic of South Korea.
 34. Third Secretary of Taiwan Embassy had visited the museum on 10th February, 2016.
 35. The Director of Fiji Museum and Director of Heritage & Arts from Ministry of Education, Fiji had visited the museum on 17th February, 2016.
 36. An eight member delegation comprising of Information Officers from Department of Information and Media, Bhutan had visited the museum on 25th February, 2016. This visit was organised by the Indian Institute of Mass Communication.
 37. Ambassador, Chung Kwang Tien from Taiwan Embassy had visited the museum with Dr. Hung-Mao Tien, President and Chairman of Institute for National Policy Research, Taiwan on 02nd March 2016.
 38. Mr. Leonardo Ananda Gomes and Mr. Elson De Barros Gomes Jr. from Brazil had visited the museum on 9th March, 2016.
 39. A six member Korean Delegation had visited the museum on 9th March, 2016. This visit was organised by Ministry of Defence.
 40. Forty students from Columbia Business School, University of Columbia had visited the museum on 20th March, 2016.
 41. A Parliamentary delegation comprising of fifty members had visited the museum on 29th March, 2016.





Farewell to Retiring Staff Members & Heartfelt Tributes



Shri Jai Kishan

Shri Jaikishan worked as Safai Sevak in both the campuses in Gandhi Smriti and Gandhi Darshan respectively

over a period of 40 years. He retired from his services on March, 2015.

Dr. Sita Ojha

Dr. Sita Ojha, worked in the Samiti as an Academic Associate. During her 14 year long career in GSDS, Dr. Sita Ojha handled multifarious responsibilities that ranged from conducting joint certificate courses with Universities under the International Centre of Gandhian Studies and Research Centre (GSDS). She also handled the *Anasakti Darshan* journal of GSDS. She retired from her services on August 2015.



Sh. Matwar Singh

Sh. Matwar Singh retired from his services as a Security Guard on January 31, 2016 after 30 years of sincere and

committed service. He served in both the campuses in Gandhi Smriti and Gandhi Darshan respectively.

During the year, the Samiti lost some of its members. The Samiti bids farewell to them and prays for the departed soul.



Sh. Ram Juari

Sh. Ram Juari, who retired as a Safai Sevak from the Samiti in October, 2014, he left for his heavenly abode, a year later in October 29, 2015. Sh. Ram Jauri will be remembered for his gentle nature. The staff and members

of the Samiti join together in paying tribute to his gentle soul.

Shri Raj Kumar

Shri Raj Kumar, who worked as a senior Gallery Attendant in GSDS retired from his services in the year 2006. After a prolonged illness, he left for his heavenly abode on January 6, 2016.



Shri Mahadev Bose

Shri Mahadev Bose, who worked as the senior Photographer in the GSDS served the Samiti for almost 30 years. During his tenure, he had personally undertaken the documentation of the archival photographs

on the life and times of Mahatma Gandhi. After a prolonged illness, Shri Mahadev Bose left for his heavenly abode on February 9, 2016.



In the Media

